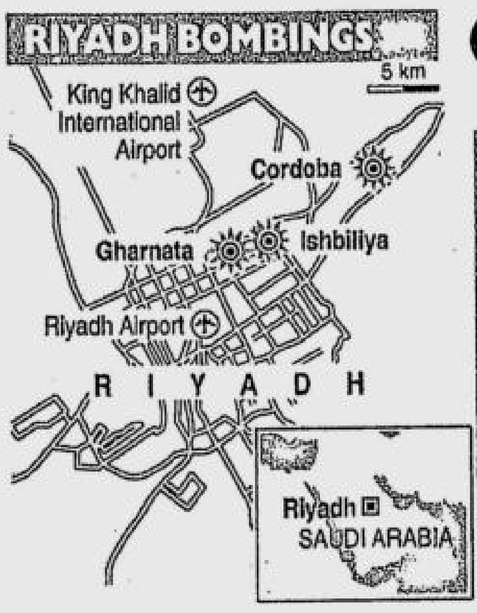


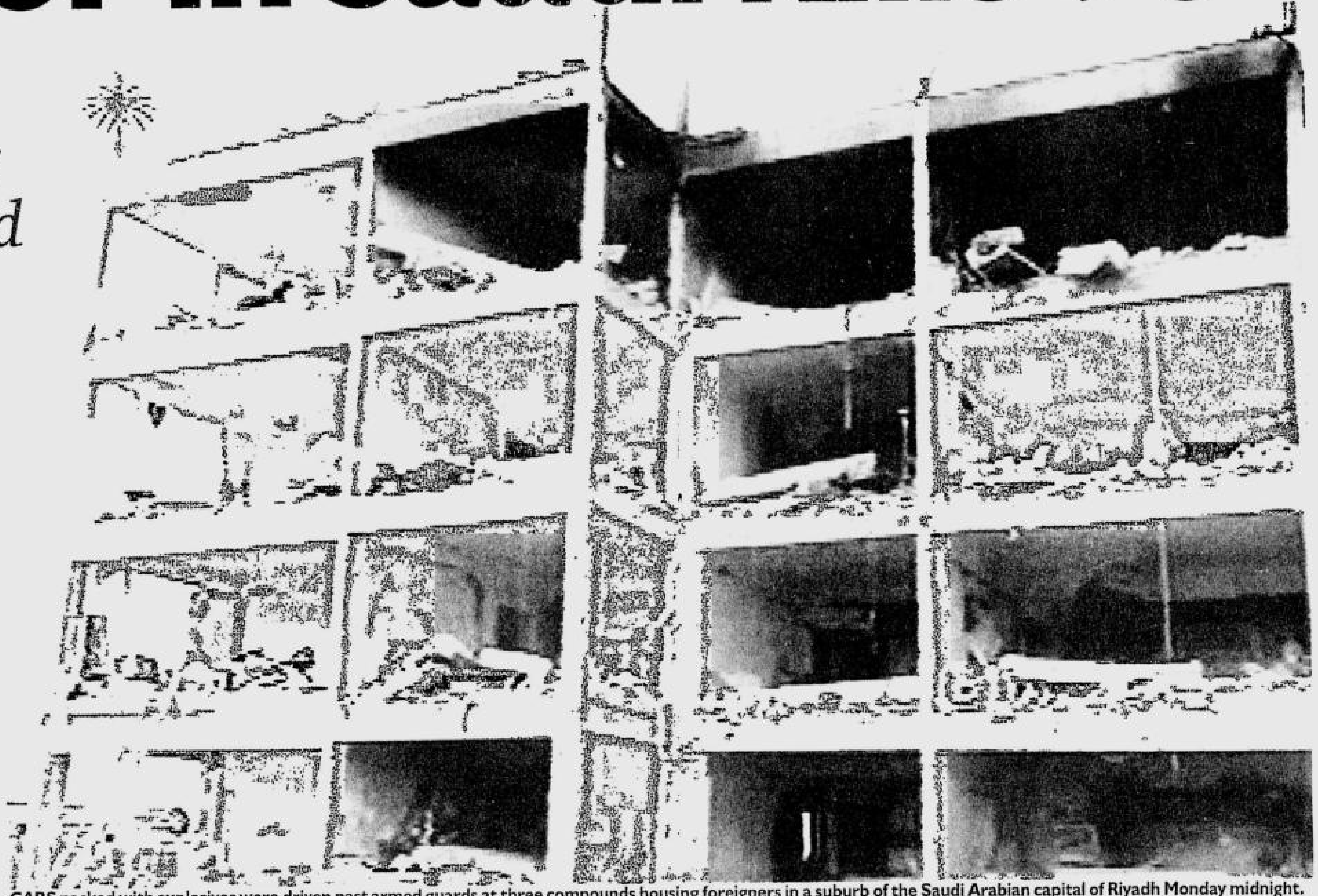
Charter change all up to God–Joe de V

Story on PAGE A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, May 14, 2003 ★★★ 76 pages / 8 sections / vol. 18 / no. 155 P15
website: www.inq7.net

WHAT'S INSIDE
- Nets sweep Celtics SPORTS/A26
- 18 new SARS deaths in China, HK, Taiwan WORLD/A11
- Tribal folk swap trees for guns ACROSS/A16

Terror in Saudi kills 90



CARS packed with explosives were driven past armed guards at three compounds housing foreigners in a suburb of the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh Monday midnight. The bombs blew off doors, windows and roofs. Residents say the attackers drove through the gates with guns blazing.

AP

2 Filipinos among dead; 160 wounded

RIYADH—More than 90 people, including two Filipinos and as many as 12 Americans, were killed in suicide bombings that rocked three expatriate housing compounds in Saudi Arabia, US officials said Tuesday.

"We have counted more than 90 dead," one official said, warning that the final figure could rise as the day went on.

A second official said the current death toll from the triple blasts stood at 91 and was expected to rise. At least 30—and possibly as many as 44—US citizens were wounded, the official said.

The officials, speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity, gave figures significantly higher than those released earlier by the Saudi interior ministry, which said at least 29 people were killed, including nine bombers and seven Americans, and 194 injured in the blasts.

Attackers shot their way into three compounds housing foreigners and set off suicide car bombs on Monday night in a coordinated terror strike that, according to US Secretary of State Collin Powell, bore the stamp of al-Qaida and its Saudi-born leader Osama bin Laden.

TERROR/ A20

OIC embarrassed by MILF attacks on civilians

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) is considering abandoning its efforts to broker peace between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, according to the undersecretary for Muslim affairs.

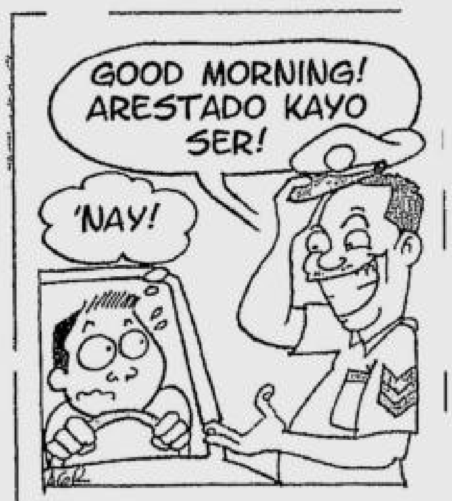
Datu Zamzamin Ampatuan yesterday said the MILF's various attacks on civilians, including in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, have embarrassed the influential pan-Islamic body. The attacks apparently occurred when representatives of the OIC's Committee of the Eight were in Mindanao to look into the implementation of the 1996 peace agreement that it had helped forge between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front.

Because of this embarrassment, Ampatuan said, OIC member-countries such as Malaysia were thinking of pulling out of the peace efforts. "What would you do if you were Malaysia?" he said.

Malaysian Defense Minister Najib Rajak had earlier urged the MILF to abandon its extreme stance and to wage a *jihad* "against poverty, not against Christians."

Other Muslim leaders expressed the belief that President Macapagal-Arroyo's earlier move to cancel the peace talks with the MILF was not a "unilateral decision."

OIC/ A19


GOOD MORNING! ARESTADO KAYO SER!
'NAY!

Smile, PNP chief tells cops

By TJ Burgonio

DON'T be surprised if policemen are being more courteous than usual.

That's because Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. launched on May 1 a project, dubbed "100 Days of Transformation," which seeks to make PNP members more courteous, friendly and professional when dealing with people.

The program is apparently aimed

SMILE/ A6

WHO asks RP to do exit checks

THE WORLD Health Organization has recommended exit screening for international travelers leaving Manila but is not suggesting the postponement of travel to the country.

The WHO has the same set of travel recommendations for Singapore and Toronto, Canada.

Bahrain and Turkey have joined the growing list of countries that are banning visitors from the Philippines to prevent the spread of the SARS virus.

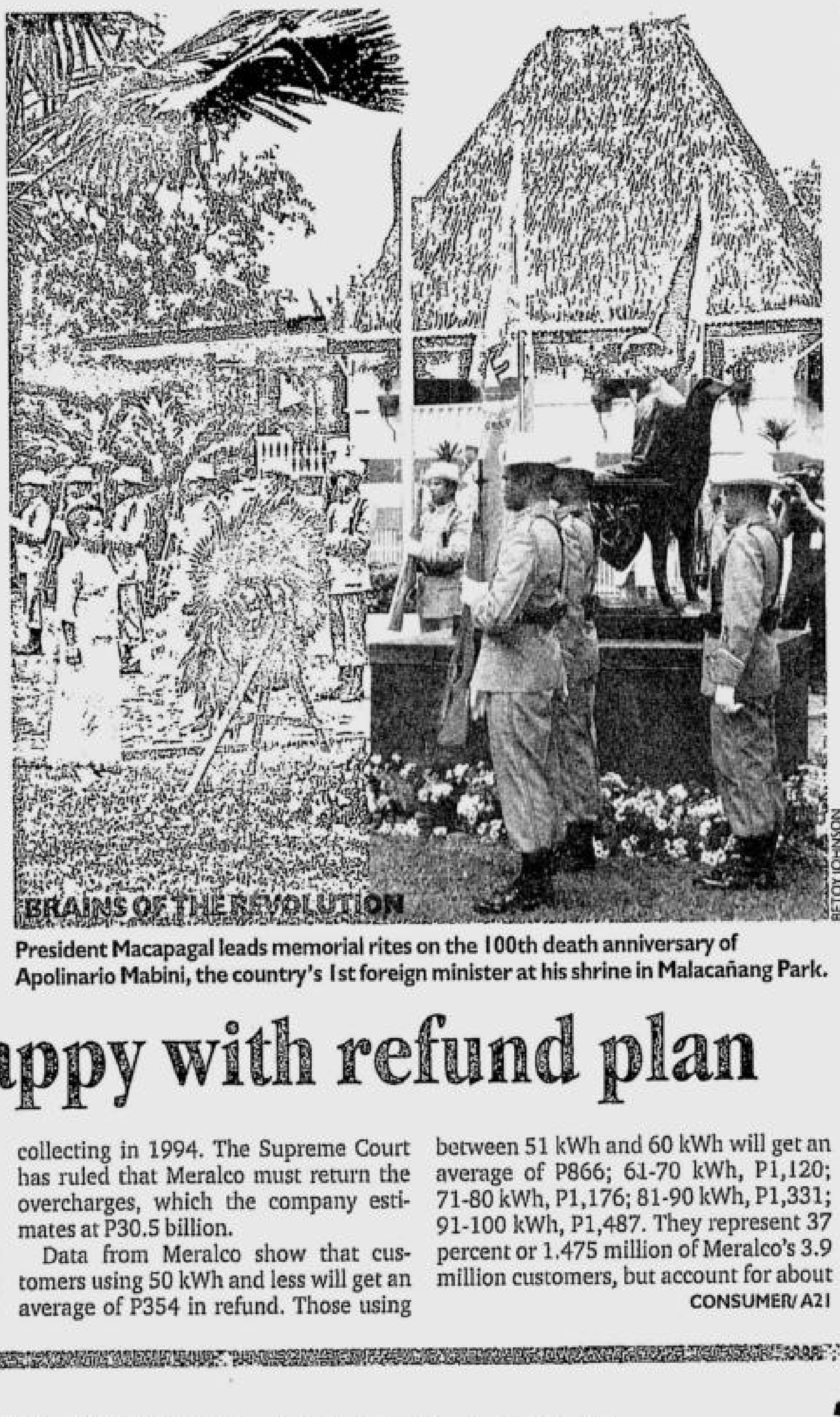
The ban in Bahrain was imposed starting Sunday and will be enforced "until health conditions settle down," Agence France Presse quoted unidentified Bahrain officials as saying yesterday.

There are around 30,000 Filipinos living and working in Bahrain, which has no known cases of SARS.

Two SARS deaths have been recorded in the Philippines, which has 10 known cases of the disease.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said Turkey had also imposed a ban on the entry of Filipino workers, but she dismissed the figure of affected OFWs as "negligible."

WHO/ A6



BRAINS OF THE REVOLUTION

President Macapagal leads memorial rites on the 100th death anniversary of Apolinario Mabini, the country's 1st foreign minister at his shrine in Malacañang Park.

BETOY JOHNSON

Consumer groups unhappy with refund plan

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CONSUMER groups are not too happy with the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval on Monday night of Manila Electric Co.'s proposal to refund in June customers using up to 100 kWh a month, with one group claiming that Meralco's computation of the amounts to be returned to the small customers is inaccurate.

The ERC also ordered Meralco to stop collecting the 16.7 centavos per kWh in excess charge that the utility firm began collecting in 1994. The Supreme Court has ruled that Meralco must return the overcharges, which the company estimates at P30.5 billion.

Data from Meralco show that customers using 50 kWh and less will get an average of P354 in refund. Those using between 51 kWh and 60 kWh will get an average of P866; 61-70 kWh, P1,120; 71-80 kWh, P1,176; 81-90 kWh, P1,331; 91-100 kWh, P1,487. They represent 37 percent or 1.475 million of Meralco's 3.9 million customers, but account for about

CONSUMER/ A21

GMA sets June 1 deadline for MILF

By Carlito Pablo

THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front has until June 1 to comply with certain conditions under pain of being tagged a terrorist organization.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye announced this during his regular media briefing yesterday. The Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security (Cocis) took up the MILF issue Monday evening.

Bunye said the MILF was obliged to:

- Surrender to the government its men involved in the recent bombings and attacks on civilian communities in Mindanao.
- Refrain from conducting "terrorist" activities and "police its ranks."
- Dissociate itself from "known terrorist organizations" like the Abu Sayyaf,

GMA/ A19

LDP headed for split over Danding, Ping

By Juliet L. Javellana and Christine Avendaño

DESPITE statements to the contrary, it very much looks like the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) is headed for the big split over its presidential nominee in 2004.

Eight LDP congressmen led by Aurora Rep. Bellaflor Angara, the sister of LDP president, Sen. Edgardo Angara, were present in a dinner meeting last Monday with tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco to convince him to run for president.

There are only 15 LDP members in the House of Representatives.

Five other LDP congressmen joined the launching of the "united opposition" on April 29 to endorse Sen. Panfilo

LDP/ A20

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/05/14/03

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2003

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Cha-cha all up to God—Joe de V

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

DAGUPAN CITY—His campaign for Charter change facing opposition from religious groups, Speaker Jose de Venecia is leaving the issue up to God to decide.

"The Lord God is the final arbiter. If He says, *'huwag muna* (not yet),' then we will wait. But if He says, *'ngayon na* (now),' then that's it," De Venecia said here yesterday.

But the Speaker who believes in "small and big miracles" said he was confident that God was on his side, noting that "we started with zero in the Senate, but now we have 10 votes."

"When it started in 1998, the Cha-cha (proposal) could not even pass in the House of Representatives. Now, it was passed overwhelmingly and we have the support of the governors, mayors, councilors, chambers of commerce and others," he said.

De Venecia did not say how he would be able to divine the favorable "signs" from heaven, however.

Church officials, as well as leaders of the Iglesia ni Cristo Christian sect and the Catholic-based El Shaddai charismatic group, have been very vocal in their opposition to Charter change.

De Venecia said he was willing to meet with the religious leaders to discuss his position on the need to amend the Constitution this year.

"We also want to know what their objections are so we can clarify (the issues)," he said. "And when we meet, we will appeal to each other, we just have to try to convince each other."

But he admitted that the Charter change proposal has a "50-50 chance" of survival in the Senate. The resolution seeking to convert the Congress into a constituent assembly still needed two senators' votes to get the 12 votes needed for approval.

"What we want only is for the (Cha-cha proposal) to be debated in the Senate instead of being killed now," he said.

He also reiterated that he was not interested to run for higher office and that he would not benefit from the constitutional amendments being proposed.

"If we have a constitutional convention next year, it will take two or three years to finish their work, we need the amendments now," he said.

The ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats meanwhile has claimed that 50 percent of Filipinos prefer a constituent assembly as the main mode of amending the Constitution, citing the results of a survey it commissioned from the NFO-Trends.

"There is now a groundswell of support for a constituent assembly to amend the 1987 Charter... This is a major development which our leaders and political parties cannot ignore," said Lakas spokesperson Heherson Alvarez in a statement.

Alvarez said the survey showed that eight of the country's 16 regions chose a constituent assembly over constitutional convention while six other regions were "leaning strongly toward it."

He said this was a "major shift in attitude" of the people on the issue.

Lakas released the results of the survey after the Senate committee on constitutional amendments failed to conclude its hearing on proposals to convene an assembly or elect a convention to propose Charter changes.

House leaders were awaiting the decision of the Senate committee which would recommend to the plenary what mode to adopt.

The House plenary has approved with a vote of 134 to 13 the resolution calling on the two chambers to convene as an assembly.

NFO-Trends is reportedly the outfit used by major polling firms like Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia to conduct their field work and initial data analysis.

Alvarez said 1,600 respondents, involving 100 "statistically representative respondents in each of the 16 regions'," were interviewed face-to-face nationwide.

They were asked these questions: When should constitutional amendments be discussed? Should Congress prepare to convene as a constituent assembly?

On the first question, 41 percent of the respondents said constitutional amendments should be discussed "before 2004," 33 percent "after 2004" and 26 percent "never."

Metro Manila voted in favor of discussing after the 2004 elections with 44 percent, 30 percent before 2004 and 26 percent never.

Mindanao wants discussions before 2004 (42 percent against 32 percent after 2004) while the Visayas wants it after 2004 (34 percent against 30 percent before 2004).

The ABC economic class also wants discussions after 2004 (41 percent against 40 percent before 2004) while the D and E classes voted for discussions before 2004.

By religion, 41 percent of Catholics want discussions before 2004 while 32 percent after 2004. The Iglesia ni Cristo wants discussions after 2004 (40 percent against 32 percent in favor of discussions before 2004). *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

It's Chavit, massacre survivor insists

RAFANAN

By Christian V. Esguerra

FORMER provincial board member Efren Rafanan yesterday insisted that former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson allegedly masterminded the March 31 ambush on his family.

Rafanan dismissed suggestions that former President Joseph Estrada and Sen. Panfilo Lacson had a hand in the attack in which his wife, son, brother and aide were killed.

"Lacson and Erap are not fools to have their allies killed and spare their enemy Chavit. That's illogical," he said in an interview.

Singson has pinned the ambush on former members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force. The PAOCTF was headed by Lacson during the Estrada administration.

"That's a lie," Rafanan said. "We challenge him to name names."

Rafanan also decried Singson's claim that he was implicating the former governor in the ambush to keep him from presenting a vital witness in the Estrada plunder case.

He noted that the prosecution had already completed its presentation of witnesses against the jailed ex-president.

"So it now appears that when you cry for justice, you're destroying Chavit," said Nestor Segismundo, former president of the Anti-Singson Save Ilocos Sur Association.

"Why (would he) sacrifice the lives of his son and wife just to destroy him?" he asked.

Four months before the ambush, Rafanan said he had an "urgent, important and confidential" meeting with a former Ilocos Sur town mayor at a Quezon City restaurant.

The mayor, he said, warned him that Singson had been allegedly talking to soldiers and businessmen to arrange Rafanan's assassination.

"He told me to keep silent... to stop my commentaries on radio because Chavit was really angry with me," he said.

Rafanan, who now hosts a show at the dzXE station in Vigan, is a persistent critic of Singson.

Walkout mars polls in Isabela

ILAGAN, Isabela—About 100 poll watchers, volunteers and supporters of the ruling Lakas-CMD yesterday walked out during the canvassing of votes for the special elections in the province's 4th district.

Denouncing the alleged "glaring tampering of votes," the Lakas supporters threatened to proclaim, through a "people's proclamation," Lakas bet Dr. Asuncion Abaya as the winner of the special polls held on Monday.

An unofficial partial tabulation conducted by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, a Church-based election watchdog, showed that Abaya got 2,499 votes against lawyer Giorgidi Aggabao's 2,290 votes in San Isidro town.

The Commission on Elections' final and official count, however, showed Aggabao receiving 7,217 votes against Abaya's 633 votes in San Isidro, or a difference of 6,584.

Aggabao, Abaya's lone opponent for the post vacated by her late husband Rep. Antonio Abaya, is the Nationalist People's Coalition's district chair.

Aggabao declined to comment on the allegations, preferring to wait for the final Comelec tally. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Braganza replaced temporarily

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESS Secretary-on leave Hernani Braganza was replaced temporarily by a veteran radio journalist.

Press Undersecretary Milton Alingod is acting press secretary until May 30.

He has been acting secretary since April 30, but his appointment was only announced yesterday.

It was reported that some Palace officials are eyeing Braganza's post.

Braganza tendered his resignation last month after just four months in office.

But the President rejected this and just approved his leave for undisclosed "medical reasons."

Palace insiders said they believe Braganza's publicized turf war with presidential chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao was a factor in his resignation.

Alingod was appointed press undersecretary on Jan. 30.

He is designated officer in charge whenever Braganza goes on leave.

Alingod is concurrently executive director of the Philippine Broadcasting Service-Radio Television Malacañang, a position he has held since December 2002.

Prior to his stint in Malacañang, he was vice president for news of GMA Network from May 1993 to August 2002.

He began his career as news writer for the defunct dzMT radio station.

He moved on to become news editor, news director and station manager of dzHP.

During martial law, he was special assistant and general manager for radio of the Office of Media Affairs, the forerunner of the Office of Press Secretary.

BRAGANZA

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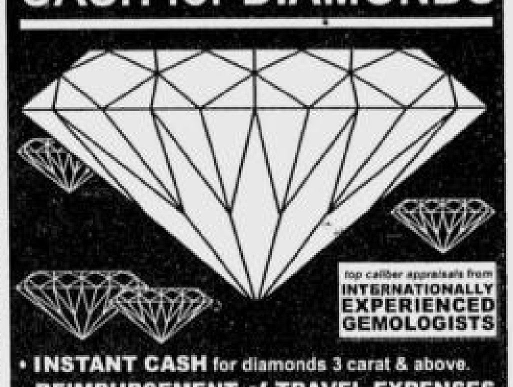

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- HOW TO QUALIFY PROSPECTS AND HIT THE RIGHT SALES TARGET
  May 10, 2003 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
- EFFECTIVE WRITTEN COMMUNICATION
  May 19 - 30, 2003 M-W-F 6:00PM-8:00PM
- CREDIT AND COLLECTION MANAGEMENT (Effective Collection : How I Works)
  May 10 – 24, 2003 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
- PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL
  May 17, 2003 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
- TRAINING PEOPLE ON TELEPHONE BEHAVIOR
  May 17, 2003 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
- SITE DEVELOPMENT AND MASS HOUSING
  May 24 - June 7, 2003 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
- MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL CONTROL
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GMA visit to US to take longer then expected

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's United States trip will be longer than expected.

Malacañang yesterday announced that she would leave on May 17 and return on May 24.

Her first stop is Los Angeles, California, where she will meet with the big Filipino-American community.

After the "very short" LA visit, she will fly to Washington, where she will stay for three days. A rare state dinner awaits her at the White House on May 19.

In the morning of that day, she will have bilateral talks with US President George W. Bush. The talking points were still being finalized as of yesterday afternoon.

But Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II yesterday said among the things the President would seek were duty-free trade privileges for key exports, like dried mangoes, pineapple juice, carrageenan and tuna. The United States is the Philippines' top export market.

Duty-free privileges

Roxas said she would ask that the privileges be granted under the US General System of Preferences (GSP). This would mean over a billion dollars in benefits, he said in a statement.

The Bush administration had promised to take this up with the US Congress, Roxas recalled, when Ms Macapagal visited in November 2001.

From Washington, the President will fly to New York, stay overnight, then proceed to San Francisco, California, from where she will fly back to Manila on May 24.

This is the President's first US state visit, although she has twice gone there since she assumed office two years ago.

Palace officials initially indicated that the visit would only be from May 19 to 21. Ms Macapagal was supposed to take the trip last April 1 to 5, but postponed it due to the US attack on Iraq.

During the six-day visit, according to presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, the President will accommodate at least three interviews with the media delegation, "timed for the early morning newscasts here."

Washington

In Washington, the President is set to meet with officials of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, International Finance Corp. and US-Asean Business Council.

Sen. Richard Lugar, chair of the Senate foreign relations committee, is also scheduled to pay her a courtesy call.

In New York, the President will be conferred an honorary doctorate of laws by Fordham University. *With a report from AFP*

Toxic waste cleanup urged

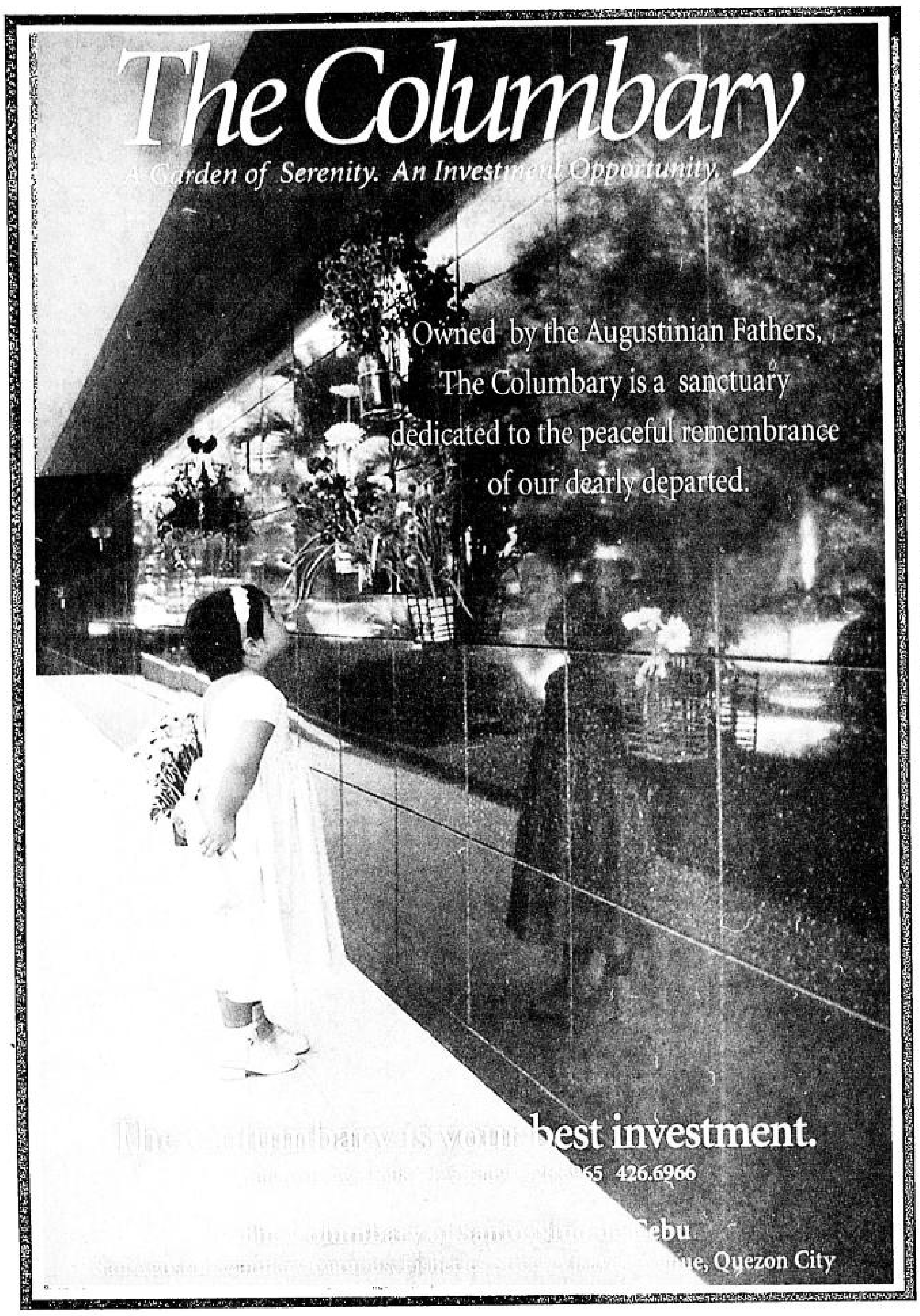
ANGELES CITY—More than 500 Italians, led by peace and child advocate Roberto Mauri, have urged President Macapagal-Arroyo and US President George W. Bush to discuss the cleanup of former American bases in the Philippines during their state dinner in Washington D.C. on May 19.

The petition, obtained by the INQUIRER from the People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup (PTFBC) on Tuesday, supports the demand of Filipino toxic waste victims for a comprehensive investigation and cleanup of the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga and Subic Naval Base in Zambales.

Mauri's group, the "Little Prince," sent the appeal to Bush last April, according to PTFBC officials.

The task force, in turn, sent the Italian and English versions of the petition to Ms Macapagal recently.

Former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada had taken up the issue with their US counterparts during official or state visits. No US-sponsored study or cleanup had been carried though, with US officials asserting that the 1947 Philippine-US military bases agreement did not require environmental remediation. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*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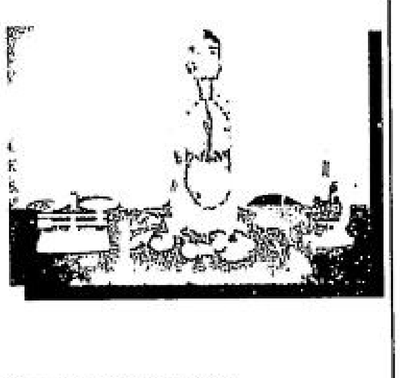

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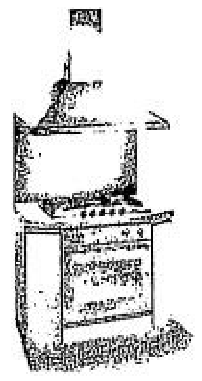

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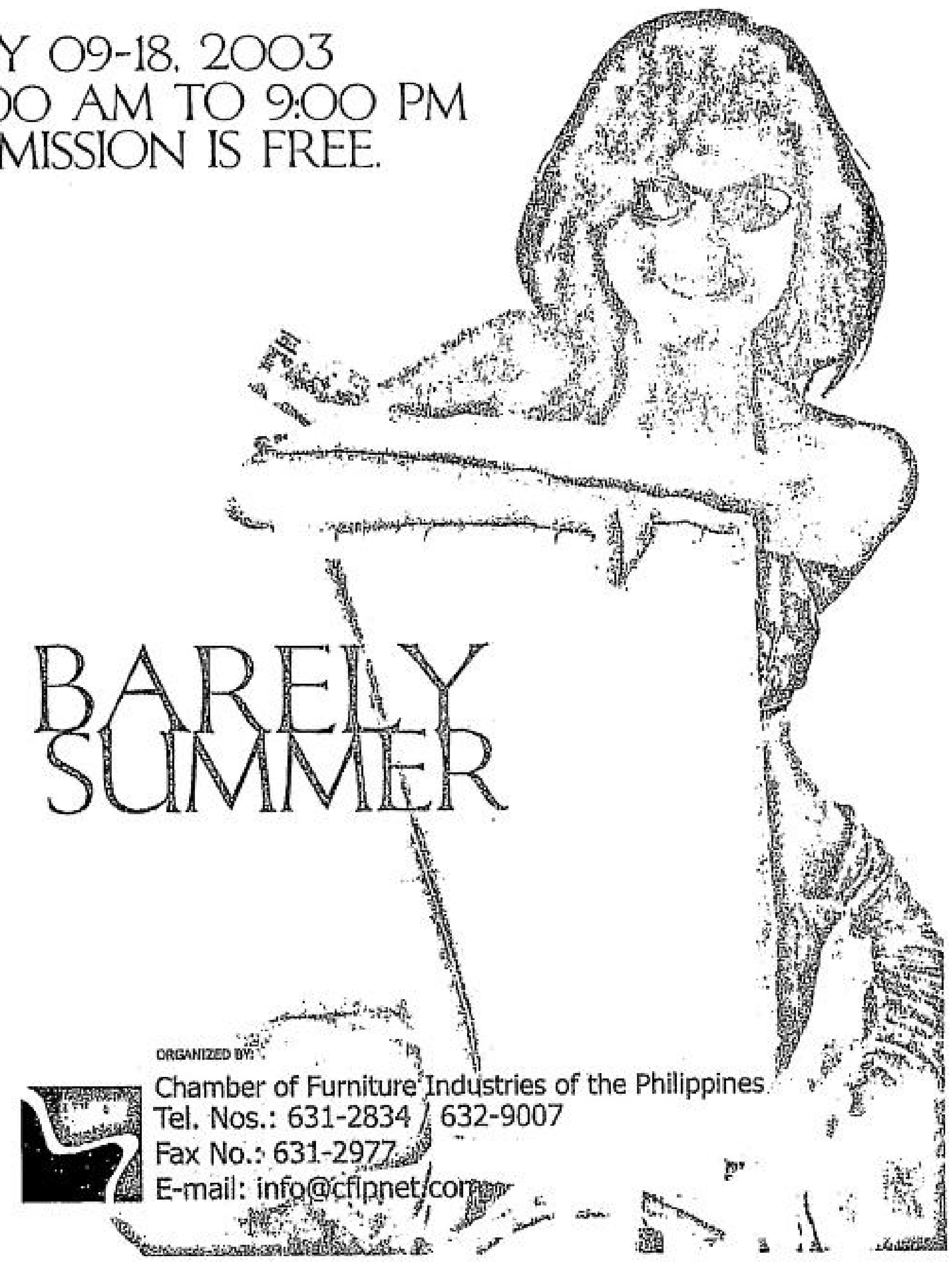

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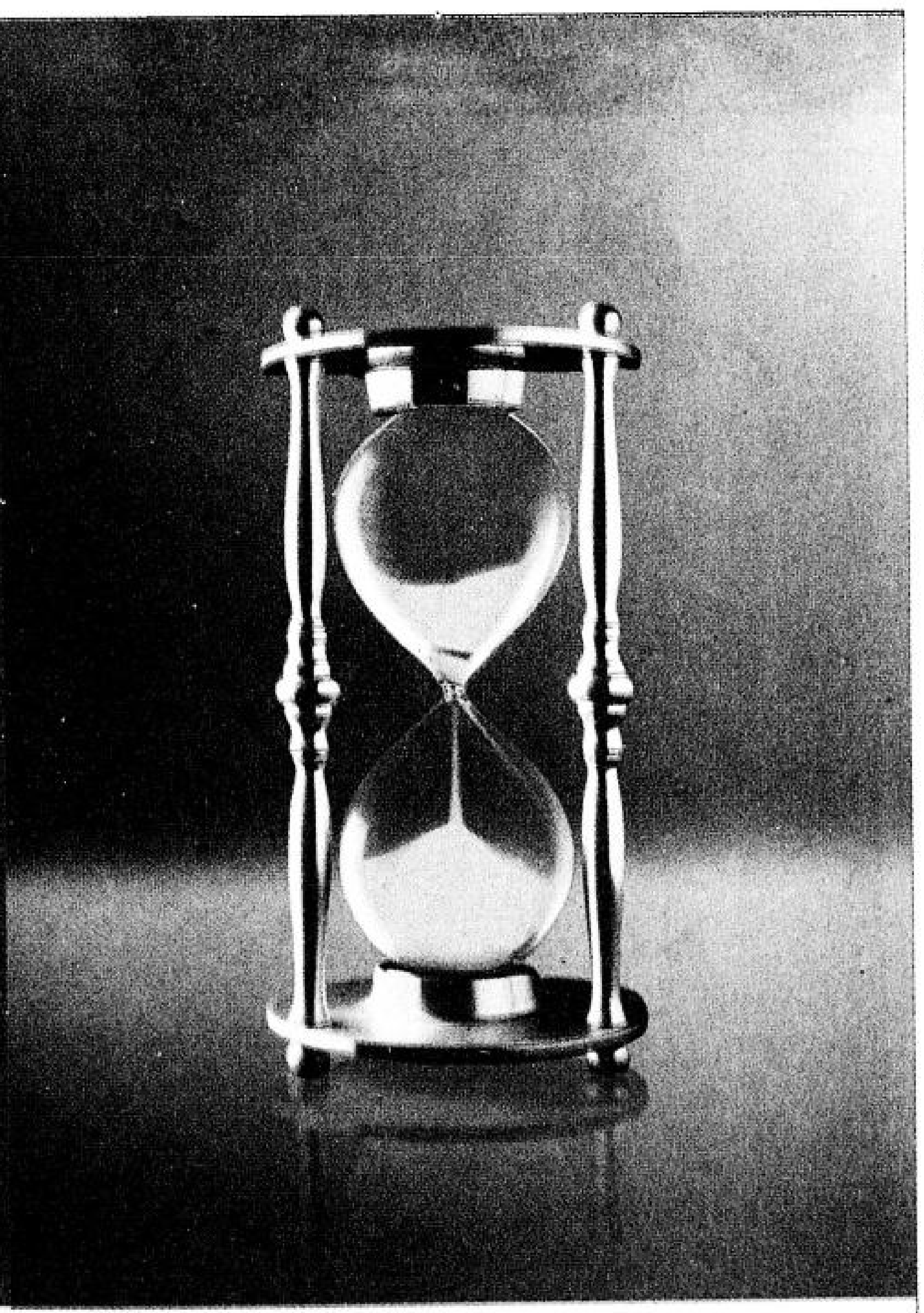

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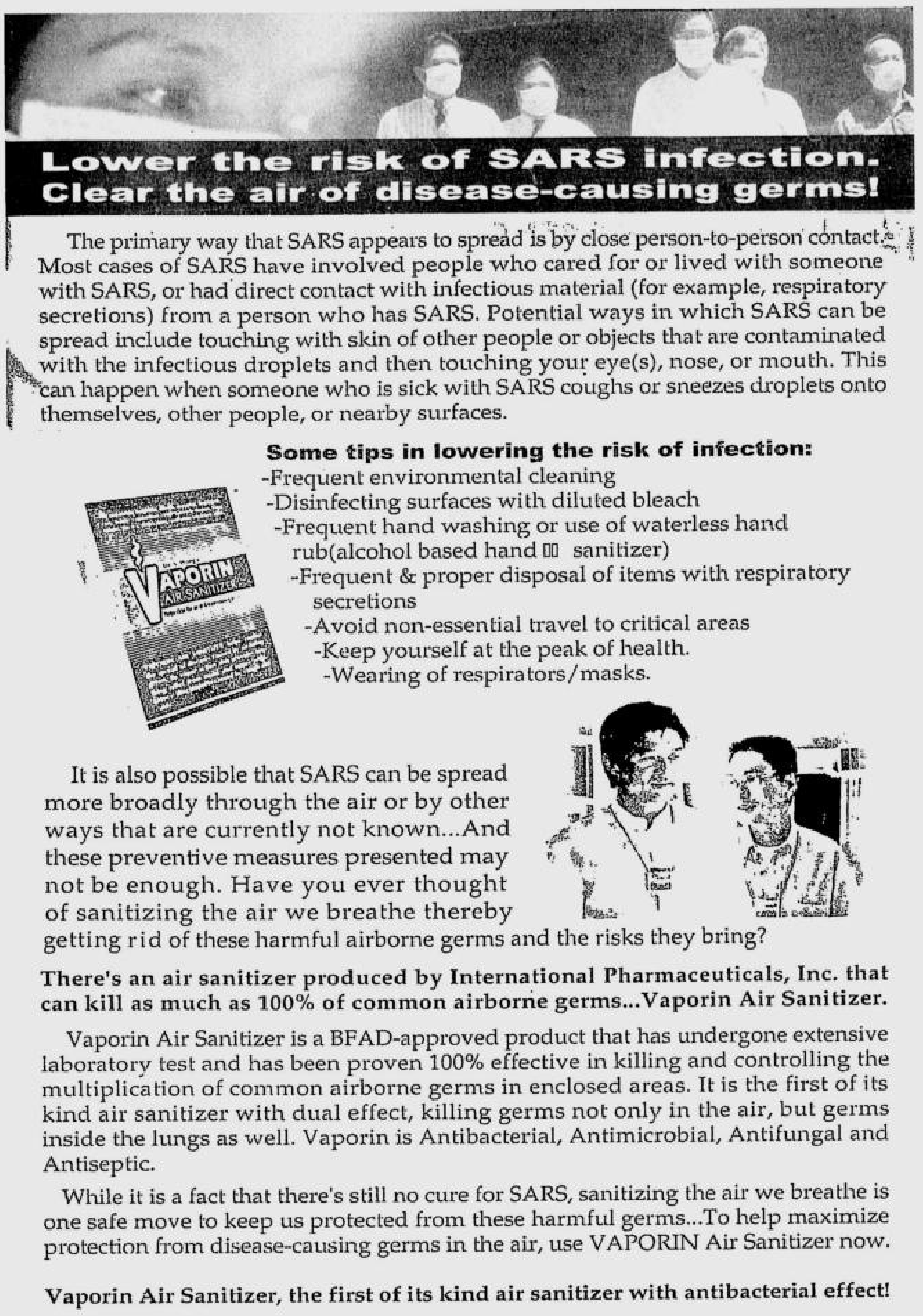

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The primary way that SARS appears to spread is by close person-to-person contact. Most cases of SARS have involved people who cared for or lived with someone with SARS, or had direct contact with infectious material (for example, respiratory secretions) from a person who has SARS. Potential ways in which SARS can be spread include touching with skin of other people or objects that are contaminated with the infectious droplets and then touching your eye(s), nose, or mouth. This can happen when someone who is sick with SARS coughs or sneezes droplets onto themselves, other people, or nearby surfaces.

Some tips in lowering the risk of infection:
-Frequent environmental cleaning
-Disinfecting surfaces with diluted bleach
-Frequent hand washing or use of waterless hand rub(alcohol based hand sanitizer)
-Frequent & proper disposal of items with respiratory secretions
-Avoid non-essential travel to critical areas
-Keep yourself at the peak of health.
-Wearing of respirators/masks.

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While it is a fact that there's still no cure for SARS, sanitizing the air we breathe is one safe move to keep us protected from these harmful germs...To help maximize protection from disease-causing germs in the air, use VAPORIN Air Sanitizer now.

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For Clean, Cool, Quality Air

From page A1

Airport general manager Edgardo Manda announced the 80-year-old Filipino-American traveler who was placed in isolation in Inchon, South Korea, over the weekend as a probable SARS case had been declared free of the dreaded disease.

Officials from the Department of Health, however, refused to comment on Manda's claim, saying they were awaiting official word from Korean health authorities.

Manda said his information came from South Korea airport authorities. He said this news has already been widely reported by Korean television networks and other media outfits.

The Korea Times website reported that the man, who was on his way to San Francisco, was showing signs of recovery. It did not say he had been cleared of SARS.

The Joong Ang Daily reported that Korea's National Institute of Health would protest to the Philippine government if it determined that Manila had violated the Asian health ministers' agreement last month to prohibit suspected SARS patients from boarding planes for international flights.

Travel recommendation

The WHO posted on its website starting yesterday a new table indicating areas with recent local SARS transmission for which WHO has issued recommendations pertaining to international travel.

Two recommended measures are specified: exit screening for international travelers departing the area and/or the postponement of nonessential travel to the area.

Based on this classification, the WHO is recommending exit screening for international travelers leaving Manila, Singapore and Toronto.

The WHO is recommending exit screening and postponement of nonessential travel into Taipei, Taiwan and areas of China, specifically Hong Kong, Beijing, Guangdong, Inner Mongolia, Shanxi and Tianjin.

The WHO SARS travel recommendation is to be updated daily.

No ban in UAE

The United Arab Emirates, meanwhile, denied it was banning the entry of visitors and workers from the Philippines. Wire agencies had reported last week that the UAE was one of several countries that had imposed a ban on workers from the Philippines.

Other countries that have imposed a ban either on visitors or workers from the Philippines are Taiwan, Kuwait, Lebanon and Libya.

The Philippines on Saturday protested its inclusion on a World Health Organization list of places where SARS has spread, saying it has prompted unfair warnings to avoid travel to the country and would hinder Filipino workers from obtaining work abroad.

On Friday, Singapore had issued a travel advisory against nonessential travel to the Philippines, but retracted this a day later after the WHO clarified that the Philippines presented a negligible risk to travelers.

Only usual pneumonia

The 80-year-old Filipino-American traveler who was placed in isolation in South Korea merely had "typical pneumonia," airport manager Manda said.

The passenger, who was identified only by the initials D.I., was subjected to mandatory health screening checks by the airlines, Manda said.

"It's either he didn't have fever when he boarded the aircraft or he lied about his fever," he said when asked how the traveler was able to board his flight despite having a SARS symptom.

D.I. is an American citizen who hails from Sinamar Norte, Isabela. He is a resident of Hayward, California.

He was on his way back to the United States when his Asiana Airlines flight made a stopover in South Korea. Airport health officials there found him to be having a fever of 39.4 degrees Celsius and tagged him as a probable SARS case.

Dr. Maria Consorcia-Quizon, director of the National Epidemiology Center, said the center had advised residents of Cagayan Valley where D.I. stayed, to keep watch over their health condition.

"The worst-case scenario is that he was incubating when he came here and we don't know whether he developed fever within the time he was here," Quizon said. "I'm calling this a worst-case scenario because this would mean he was going around when he was sick."

She said reports from the consular office in South Korea showed that D.I. had returned here for a 15-day vacation. *Reports from Norman Bordadora, Blanche Rivera, Armand Nocum, AP*

RP hosts airport SARS summit today

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will address the Asean 3 Aviation Forum on the Prevention and Containment of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome today in Clark Field, Pampanga.

The forum aims to standardize protocols at ports of entry to prevent and contain the spread of SARS.

"Right now, screening protocols of countries in the (Asean) region and in SARS-infected countries vary. We hope to unify these protocols," said Manila International Airport Authority general manager Edgardo Manda.

"We hope we can reduce the inconveniences that screening procedures pose on air travelers and restore the level of confidence of air travelers about traveling in the region," Manda said.

Among those which have confirmed attendance in the airport SARS summit are China, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Cambodia and Burma. The SARS-stricken city of Toronto, Canada, has likewise confirmed its attendance.

Airport officials from Hong Kong sent their regrets that they could not attend the forum. Indonesia, Laos, Japan and South Korea have yet to confirm their attendance.

The largest delegation of 12 officials from China was scheduled to arrive last night. *Norman Bordadora*

Smile, PNP chief tells cops

From page A1

at countering the public's negative perception of policemen that a series of pro-Sen. Panfilo Lacson TV ads has magnified.

The commercials, which featured testimonials by crime victims, depict the current police leadership as less efficient in stamping out crimes than Lacson during his watch as PNP chief.

"After 100 days, we'll be friendlier, warmer and gentler," vowed Director Ricardo de Leon, police director for police community relations. "If you think you are the best, you still have to improve," he said.

De Leon admitted that Ebdane had given orders to policemen "to go back to the basics" because of the persistent negative perception of the national police.

"It looks like the perception is that we need to do something more. We do things that are doable, and don't require money," De Leon told reporters.

Asked if the campaign was a reaction to the pro-Lacson ads, he said: "We are sensitive to any negative feedback. We have to be very sensitive and respond to what the people want."

De Leon, however, said the current leadership could not be compared with Lacson's because it deals with new threats such as terrorism and other transnational crimes.

He said the basic principle of the campaign was for each policeman to seek self-transformation.

"Everyone has to contribute . . . He becomes a friendship center. That's the whole idea. The focus is how to win friends in his daily activities," De Leon said.

"It will start with him as a person, in his place of work, in the vehicles that he rides, and in his home. He should be a good neighbor."

The directorate for police community relations has lined up seminars to help policemen change the way they think, the way they do things and the way they look, and has issued flyers on such subjects.

At the end of the 100 days, the PNP will ask a civic group, Pulse Asia or Social Weather Stations to conduct a survey on how the policemen fared, according to De Leon.

"Based on the results, we will refocus our efforts elsewhere," he said.

Cito to see hunger strikers

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

FOUR hunger strikers now on their 23rd day of protest will face Agriculture Secretary Luis "Cito" Lorenzo this afternoon in a third round of dialogues to discuss their demand for a moratorium on the planting and sale starting this month of the genetically engineered (GE) Bt corn variety.

This was the outcome of a meeting yesterday in Malacañang between Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao and the hunger strikers led by Roberto "Obet" Verzola of the environmentalist group Philippine Greens.

The protesters—two of them already wheelchair-bound—were hoping to secure a moratorium from President Macapagal-Arroyo before she leaves for the United States this weekend.

Verzola, the oldest of the strikers at 50, said Lorenzo had not acted on their petition, which was submitted to the Department of Agriculture before the hunger strike began on April 22.

"Every day counts," Verzola spoke from his wheelchair, visibly weak from a 17-pound weight loss in just over three weeks. "Once the planting season starts, it will be difficult to reverse the crop's impact on the environment."

In fact, he said, "farmers could be using the seeds now."

Tiglao, a former activist, said old friendships forged during the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship had drawn him to the cause of the environmentalists and peasant leaders. He called Verzola "old comrade."

But he said it was more urgent at this time to call for a moratorium on the protest fast, while their petition was under study.

"I'm worried about the life of an old friend," Tiglao said, warning that the fast could lead to permanent liver and heart diseases.

Another hunger striker, Luisita Esmao, was also in a wheelchair during the dialogue that was attended by supporters. The two other protesters are Ann Larracas, from a farmers' group and sympathizer Fr. Robert Reyes.

When the four declined Tiglao's offer to first look after their health, the Chief of Staff conceded, "That is your decision."

Verzola insisted that the government should show good faith by ordering the moratorium until the issues were resolved. If a moratorium were denied and they were proven right, he said, it might be too late to reverse the crop's adverse effects.

Native corn would be contaminated through cross-pollination, the natural environment would be upset and people's health would suffer, Verzola said.

Monsanto, a United States-based pesticide producer, owns the patent for the Yielgard Bt corn genes. The DA approved the crop's commercialization last December after field tests in Mindanao and Northern Luzon.

Versola's weight has dropped from 135 lbs at the start of the strike to 118 lbs yesterday. Before yesterday's meeting, Esmao, 46, had been at the Lung Center, where she was rushed last Friday. But she vowed to return to the DA camp site.

Lorenzo met with the hunger strikers on the seventh day of the strike, and five days later, but only promised to study their petition on both occasions, the protesters said.

Tiglao promised to attend this afternoon's meeting.

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Gov't has money to pay Piatco—DOJ

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE PHILIPPINE government has the funds to compensate the Philippine International Air Terminals Co., the holder of the nullified contracts for the construction of the controversial Naia Terminal 3, but only after terms for compensation are agreed in an out-of-court settlement, said Justice Undersecretary Manuel A.J. Teehankee.

He said the government was preparing to negotiate the terms of reimbursement with Piatco which has reportedly accepted Malacañang's offer to settle the issue out of court after the Supreme Court on May 5 voided the five contracts awarded to Piatco to build Terminal 3.

"At the same time, the Department of Transportation and Communications and the Manila International Airport Authority are preparing an action plan to be implemented upon the finality of the SC decision in order to enable the government to open the airport at the soonest possible time," he said.

Teehankee said the government would tap the Commission on Audit and accredited foreign international appraisers to audit the costs of building the terminal and arrive at a just valuation of the compensation to be paid to Piatco.

Pending the results of an audit, "it is premature at this point to discuss the sources of the funding," said Teehankee, the acting head of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel.

He stressed that the issue was not the government's capability to pay, "but ensuring . . . that we are incurring legitimate and valid expenses only and (that) the contracts are not onerous or disadvantageous to the government."

Tapping the services of the COA and foreign appraisers was only one of the approaches being looked into "to ensure a clear and independent approach and assure that just compensation is given."

Teehankee was a member of a Cabinet committee that reviewed the Piatco contracts last year and recommended their nullification for allegedly being lopsided.

Piatco vice president and company spokesperson Moises Tolentino, however, claimed that the firm had yet to be officially notified of the talks.

Napocor-Meralco deal a sellout, says Enrile

THE P28-MILLION compromise settlement between the National Power Corp. and the Manila Electric Company on their contract dispute was a sellout of the interest of the government and the consumers, former senator Juan Ponce Enrile said yesterday.

The former senator criticized President Macapagal's decision ordering Napocor to scale down its power production supposedly to allow privately-owned independent power producers to maximize their output and grant them full participation in power generation.

The Napocor had accused Meralco of reneging on their 10-year P28-billion contract for the state-owned power firm to supply 3,600 megawatts to the giant power firm so it could tap its Lopez-owned suppliers for its power.

The President's decision, Enrile said in a press statement, would cause the further bankruptcy of the debt-ridden Napocor, whose debts will be absorbed by government and paid for by the people.

"It is clear that President Arroyo is engaging in 'tokenism' as the recent moves of government only aggravate and perpetuate the abuses and overcharging of Meralco consumers," Enrile said.

IT schools at it again

THE COUNTRY'S top computer schools are at it again.

Yesterday, the country's biggest IT school came under fire when it was accused of undercutting a small competitor in a bid to boost its share of the local IT education market. Parents of students and employees of IAcademy, a small IT school offering a specialized IT curriculum, are up in arms over moves by industry leader AMA Colleges to wrestle a supply contract with US-based IT school, ICarnegie.

AMA and ICarnegie, the world's leading provider of computer education, issued separate statements denying the allegation.

The controversy stemmed from paid ads placed by AMA last week announcing it had been awarded an exclusive partnership contract by ICarnegie to offer courses and modules the US school had previously supplied to IAcademy, a subsidiary of STI, AMA's main competitor.

IAcademy said it had signed an exclusive partnership agreement with ICarnegie in 2001. It added that awarding a partnership agreement to another institution was a breach of contract by ICarnegie because its partnership was technically still in effect.

IAcademy officials explained that negotiations were ongoing with ICarnegie over enrollment targets and the implications on some of its financial obligations to the US-based IT school.

The officials said these financial obligations could not be settled until negotiations on the enrollment targets were completed. They admitted that the economic slowdown had affected IAcademy's targets.

AMA had reportedly invited top ICarnegie officials led by Allan Fisher, ICarnegie president and CEO, to attend the graduation ceremonies of AMA Colleges today.

AMA said IAcademy was barking up the wrong tree. Its spokesperson, Johnny Ramos, denied his company had pulled the rug from under its rival school when it signed an exclusive deal with ICarnegie last April 21.

Ramos maintained that the deal was done in good faith and that if STI wanted to pursue its complaint, it should discuss its problem with ICarnegie and not AMA.

In a separate statement issued from Pittsburgh, Philip L. Lehman, senior vice president for sales and marketing of ICarnegie, said ICarnegie had given a written notice to STI terminating their exclusive contract.

CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH

Private Sector

OIL PRICE ROLLBACK BALANCE DUE THIS MONTH IS 76 CENTAVOS

We thank Shell for responding to our dilemma by advising us on where to obtain data on freight rates and premium over Dubai Crude while at the same time protecting their proprietary information. This allowed us to update our computations from September 2002 to April 2003 as follows:

	1	2	3*	4*	5	6	7	8
Month	Effective	$ Dubai Crude	$ Freight Rate	$ Premium	$ Crude cost	Forex (Php)	COPW INC/(DEC)	OIL CO's INC/(DEC)
Sept		26.80	0.65		27.47	52.16		
Oct	Nov	26.31	1.30	0.20	27.83	52.96	0.30	(0.22)
Nov	Dec	23.31	1.42	0.40	25.15	53.32	(0.88)	(0.41)
Dec	Jan	25.73	2.02	0.40	28.17	53.49	1.15	0.49
Jan	Feb	28.02	1.97	0.40	30.41	53.59	0.85	0.95
Feb	Mar	30.02	1.87	0.70	32.61	54.12	0.95	0.50
Mar	Apr	27.38	2.38	1.00	30.77	54.55	(0.58)	(0.24)
Apr	May	23.46	2.59	1.00	27.06	52.75	(1.72)	(0.24)
						Cumulative Total	0.07	.83

The average reduction of 24 centavos last May 5 is below our expectation. We expect the balance of 76-centavo rollback (0.83 less 0.07) in two phases - the first reduction very shortly this week and the final reduction on the week of May 19th.

This would bring our COPW and the oil companies' computation to an **all-even position or "patas na".**

*Col. 3 & 4 are changes in the freight and premium that are added on to the base price of Dubai Crude. These are subject to changes monthly and will now be considered in our cost computation.

MANILA WATER RATE INCREASE IS 16 CENTAVOS DUE TO FOREX LOSS IN 1ST QUARTER

We have no objections to the Manila Water rate increase of 16 centavos per cubic meter given that:

1. Under the Concession Agreement, they are entitled to a quarterly Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) for forex losses/gains on the loans that they have incurred based on the differential in the forex rate of P51.86 in the last quarter of 2002 and the forex rate of P54.86 in the 1st quarter of 2003.
2. They have performed better than the 60%:40% debt to equity ratio that the COPW had requested Manila Water to maintain. For the first quarter of 2003, Manila Water has maintained a ratio of 47% debt and 53% equity.
3. This means a lower water rate increase to consumers as we pay the forex loss on $31.5 million instead of on $40.20 million out of a $67 million total debt.

OUR RECOMMENDATION TO ERC ON MERALCO REFUND

1. For residential customers consuming 300 kwh and below, who represent **77%** of the total MERALCO customers and are responsible for **18%** of total Peso Energy Sales or approximately P5.4 Billion - we propose that they be refunded in full.
2. For commercial and industrial users and residential customers consuming more than 300 kwh who represent only **23%** of MERALCO customers but are responsible for **82%** of its total Peso Energy Sales or approximately P24.6 Billion, we propose that they, being the major beneficiaries, be refunded in full in eight annual installments out of total refund of P30 Billion estimated by MERALCO.
3. For residential customers who pay their bills through their landlords - we recommend that they immediately inform MERALCO, their landlord and the ERC to ensure that they get the benefit of the refund.

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RAUL T. CONCEPCION
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To better serve the public, this ad appears in major newspapers.

Eugenia D. Apostol *Founding Chairman*

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Severe

EDITORIALS

IT is the severest of ironies that countries like Taiwan and Singapore, which have several cases of full-blown Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), have banned their nationals from traveling to the Philippines, ostensibly because of the SARS situation here. The development shows the potential for diplomatic aggravation of the SARS menace, as well as the readiness of countries to set aside all notions of neighborliness in a sorry attempt perhaps to cast others as more SARS-troubled than they.

At the least, it is laughable how Taiwan and Singapore could be so "trigger-happy" in banning travel to the Philippines when both have become literally the playing fields of the incurable virus. Taiwan, according to the World Health Organization, has 131 cases and 13 deaths, the fourth largest number of SARS cases in Asia and the fifth in the world.

Singapore's record is even worse. It has 204 cases and 27 deaths.

The culprit perhaps is the World Health Organization's designation of the Philippines as among the countries affected by SARS. But the Philippines has coped well with the emergency, as seen from the relatively low level of transmission here. In fact, the Philippines is classified as a "medium transmission pattern," with only two people having died of SARS here, a nurse who got the virus from Canada and her father whom she infected. There are 10 probable cases of SARS, mainly confined to the nurse's family. As of last week, they were recovering.

Now, Singapore may say that it was only following the WHO update in warning its nationals against traveling to the Philippines unless it is very necessary, but it seems to have forgotten that at the extraordinary summit of the Asean in Bangkok recently, the member countries agreed not to impose travel warnings against one another. President Macapagal-Arroyo said she even got glowing remarks from Singapore Prime Minister Go Chok Tong for the bravery and dedication of Filipino nurses and medical personnel coping with the SARS emergency in the island-state.

So whatever has happened to Asean inter-nation comity and the sacrifice of our nurses in Singapore and elsewhere? Oh, they have to be jettisoned in the name of hypochondria.

The Singapore ban is very surprising inasmuch as it has been encouraging foreigners to visit the island. The Singapore Tourism Authority, for example, has been inviting Philippine journalists over to report on the island's tourist, cultural and shopping havens despite SARS. In the context of their advisory to their nationals not to visit the Philippines, does that mean the media junket its tourism bureau is offering Philippine journalists is a left-handed compliment?

Or are Filipino newsmen supposed to bring to the island the real picture of SARS, something like the St. Louis Exposition during the American era when Filipino ethnic tribes were brought over to the United States so that Americans could appreciate how advanced they were and how backward we were?

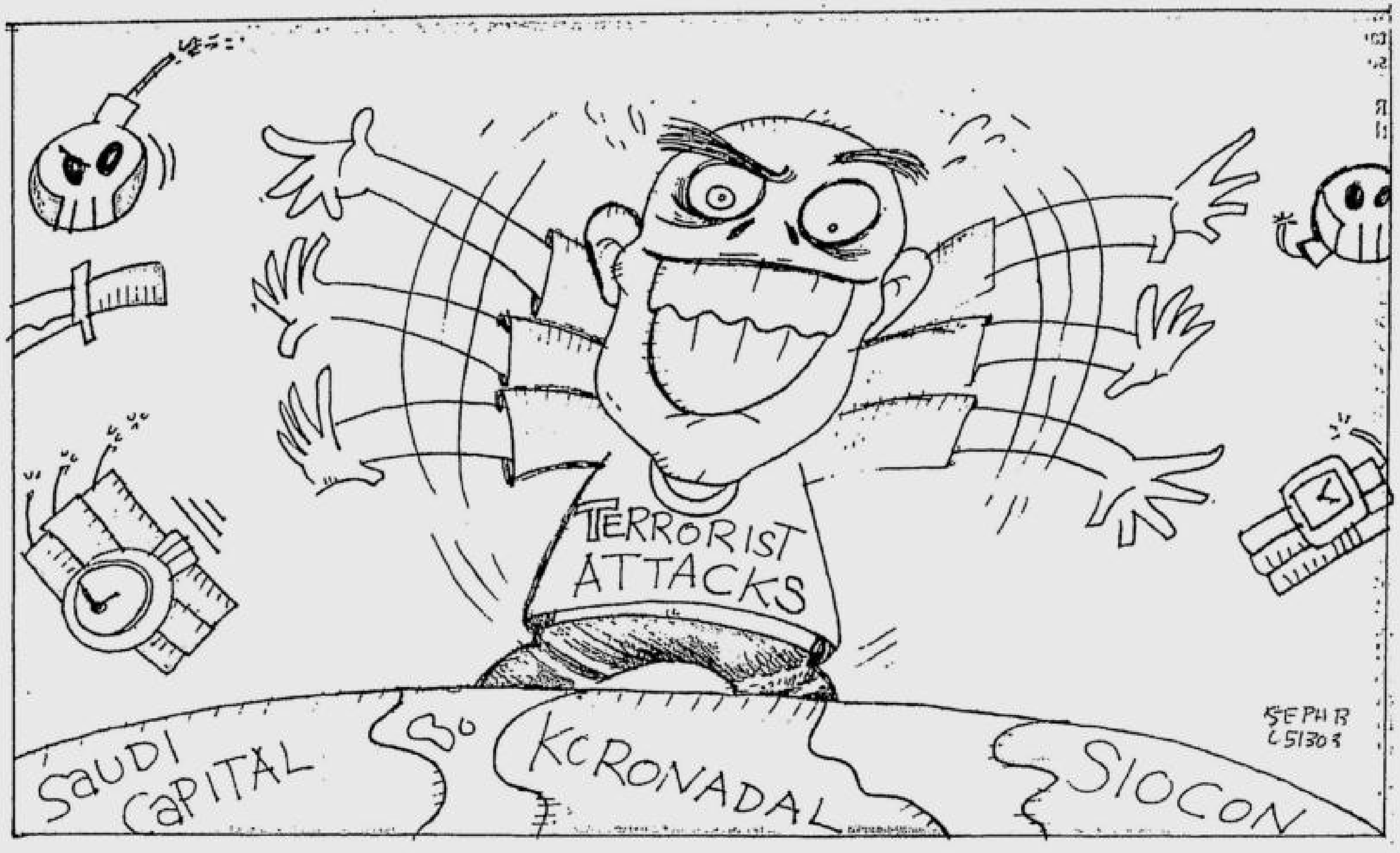
Singapore has, of course, announced that it has lifted the ban, but Filipino professionals in Singapore insist that the ban stays.

Acute

AS ACUTE and worrisome are the travel advisories of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates and the Filipino manpower ban imposed by Libya. These developments compound Taiwan's ban on Filipino workers, and may have an impact on the economy that has been kept afloat for two decades now by overseas workers' dollar remittances.

The advisories are another dagger struck at the heart of the Philippines, which has been more than neighborly toward the Middle East for the past years, supplying its manpower needs and, in the case of Kuwait, assisting in its rehabilitation after the Gulf War and providing the political support to the US war on Iraq, a war that was conducted with the strategic and tactical complicity of Kuwait. So the Philippines is getting punished for being too nice and helpful.

Diplomatic protests seem ineffective in stemming the tide of negative advisories. Libya, for example, has not lifted the ban despite the protest of Manila and the promise of its envoy here to work for the advisory's repeal. The foreign office must dip from its arsenal of diplomatic tricks and pressure tactics to force Tripoli and the other Middle Eastern capitals to see a little more perspective in the current scare and wake up from its panic and paranoia. If not, we will become the saddest victim of SARS, even without the body count.



Towing of cars now a lucrative racket

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

CHAIRMAN Bayani Fernando of the Metro Manila Development Authority announced yesterday that they would apprehend and arrest the crew of illegal tow trucks. Towing of parked vehicles has become the most lucrative racket in Metro Manila. Because of the profit motive (the lion's share of the average P1,500 towing fee goes to the privately owned towing companies), they are getting out of bounds. It's bad enough that some of the towing companies accredited by the MMDA are greedy, impolite and uncouth, but there are also *colorums* who victimize car owners. These are the towing groups that the MMDA plans to arrest and clamp in jail.

Owners of vehicles towed away should call the MMDA hotline and ask if the tow truck is accredited. Give the plate number and color of the tow truck, name of the towing firm, etc. If it is bogus, an MMDA fast-reaction team will arrest its crew.

But sometimes MMDA-accredited towing firms are also greedy. The MMDA should teach them to temper their greed and how to behave politely and responsibly. They should be taught that the main purpose of towing away illegally-parked vehicles is not to make money but to remove that vehicle and clear the traffic obstruction. If the driver is around, he should be merely told to remove his vehicle. It is only when the vehicle is locked and the driver is unavailable that it should be towed away. And only when there is a sign saying it is a "Tow away zone."

Take this case that happened in the afternoon of April 29 on Tandang Sora, near the corner of Commonwealth Avenue (below the fly-over) in Quezon City, to a resident of Mira Nila Homes. The area is now a "Traffic Discipline Zone" of the MMDA or City Hall because of the traffic chaos there. A traffic enforcer with a loudspeaker sits on a traffic outpost at the corner telling commuters where to wait for rides and the drivers where to load and unload passengers.

At 2:15 that day, Elizabeth Montenegro and her sister-in-law who was driving, stopped to buy medicine at Rose Pharmacy beside the McDonald's outlet at the Tierra Market building. They parked in front of the drugstore; the driver left the car with the engine running and Elizabeth waiting in the passenger seat. Elizabeth relates what happened next in a letter to Fernando:

"After about five or 10 minutes, I heard a loud metallic sound in front of the car. A truck had parked in front of us with about four or five men, one of whom was already attaching a metal clamp to the front end of our car. I ordered them to introduce themselves and explain what was happening. One of them shouted that it was a no-parking zone. I looked around and saw no sign to support this assertion.

"I rang the car horn to alert my sister-in-law who was still unaware of [what was happening] and, at that instant, while I was looking towards my sister-in-law, one man from the group entered the car, sat on the driver's seat and held the steering wheel. Asked to explain who they were and what they were doing, he said we would be towed because we were illegally parked.

"I reminded him that the car was not empty, the engine was running and that we would transfer the car if they would ask. I added that he should make sure that what he was doing was lawful. All he answered was that I should talk to the person in charge.

"Our queries received only dismissive responses, if at all. Finally, in a loud, hurried voice, the person in charge commanded my sister-in-law to get inside the car before they operated their dilapidated tow truck marked CTEG Towing Services with plate number UJT 600 with our car in tow. At their station somewhere near the Fairview Market, they charged my sister-in-law P1,300, 'as payment for towing services' and issued Official Receipt No. 3256 under the business name Arrom Transport Service with address at Larangay St., Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan City. No traffic violation ticket was issued for illegal parking."

I pass by this corner every day and I know that there isn't any "No Parking" sign on the right side of Tandang Sora facing Commonwealth. There is a "No Parking" sign on the opposite side but nobody pays any attention to it; vehicles are always double-parked on the busy street.

A few days after this story was told to me, a small "No Parking; Tow Away Zone" sign appeared on an electric post beside McDonald's, but yesterday vehicles were again parked on both sides. Furthermore, passenger jeepneys were double-parked on the same street farther back.

Even granting that the car of Elizabeth and her sister-in-law was illegally parked, the tow truck's crew did not have to tow it away. They could have just told them to move it to another location. Towing is only a last resort to remove an illegally parked vehicle as a traffic obstruction when its driver cannot be found. Also, the traffic enforcer at the police outpost could have told the driver through his loudspeaker that she was illegally parked and would she please move her car? It was crazy to tow the car all the way to Fairview when the driver was right there. A TVR for a parking violation would have sufficed.

But doing the above would have deprived the towing crew an opportunity to collect P1,300 for themselves and the towing company.

Anyway, the behavior of that crew was illegal and should not be tolerated. Instead they should be punished. If they were accredited to the MMDA or the office of the mayor, *nakakahiya sila*. If they were *colorums*, they should be arrested—as the MMDA promised.

The worst enemy

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'M glad the relatives of the victims of the Communist Party of the Philippines' "killing fields" built a marker for them at the UP Freedom Park last Saturday. The "killing fields" were the series of purges the CPP mounted in the 1980s, the last of them being in 1988 when it killed more than a hundred of its members. The slaughter was meant to cleanse its ranks of spies and "bad elements." What it rid itself of instead was often its best and brightest, the comrades who had at one time or another questioned the wisdom of the leadership or its policies. What it strengthened in its ranks were the petty bureaucrats and cutthroats, the one willing to obey out of ambition, the other out of ignorance.

To this day, the CPP refuses to acknowledge responsibility for the atrocity or to talk about it. On one hand, it dismisses it as the handiwork of a "splinter group," the so-called "rejectionists," who have presumably caused the cataclysm by their rush to achieve victory through urban warfare rather than protracted peasant war. On the other, it cajoles, pleads and threatens those who insist on talking about it as playing into the hands of the enemy, the military, which it says is bound to milk it for its own ends.

The first is ridiculous. To begin with, there is the principle of "command responsibility," which the CPP has been first to insist on. To buy the CPP's self-exoneration in the "killing fields" by pointing to a splinter group, you have to buy as well the AFP top brass' self-exoneration in the massacres perpetrated by its troops by pointing to "lost commands." The CPP has always bristled at the latter.

Indeed, it has supported ardently the "class suit" against the Marcoses by the torture victims during martial law. It hailed the decision of Honolulu Judge Manuel Real finding Marcos guilty as charged, and has been helping the plaintiffs since press for restitution. Real's decision in fact was based on one principle, and that is command responsibility. Marcos, Real said, cannot escape blame for the mass torture and murder by saying the officers who did them exceeded his demands, or were beyond his control. He declared martial law. He was in charge. He was responsible.

That doesn't include evidence, not least the testimonies of the victims themselves, that some of the members of the current CPP leadership had a direct hand in the atrocity. The rest were either silent about it or approved it in principle. They cannot escape blame.

The second is plain wrong. Who cares if the military uses the "killing fields" for its own end? That is not the military's fault, or indeed those who want to bring the atrocity out into the open, that is the fault of those who wreaked it. It happened—that is God's truth. If it did not, the military would have nothing to milk for its own ends. Each time, I hear people say that incident may not be talked about except in whispers because it is an explosive subject, I see Jack Nicholson, eyebrows pinched and glaring at the world, snarling, "You can't handle the truth." People who spit that out are normally the ones who cannot handle the truth—about themselves.

I'm glad my good friend Bobby Garcia had the courage to write about the "killing fields" despite some people's efforts to dissuade him. Bobby was one of its victims—he was 22 when his entire future was nearly taken away from him—who was lucky enough to survive. And who is even luckier to retain a huge sense of humor and equanimity, even when talking about his ordeal, at least with friends. His book is called "To Suffer Thy Comrades." There is nothing humorous in it, except an occasional wry observation or two. It is certainly not something that will set your mind at rest. But read it anyway. Its virtue is to be found in that biblical observation, "The truth shall set you free."

The strength of the communist movement had already waned considerably when the last major purge happened, but I personally think the impact of those purges was what threw it into a swift decline. In the end, the debacle wasn't caused by crucial military defeats, it was caused by decisive moral losses. The "killing fields" drove home something many comrades had been feeling uneasily over the years, which was the inability of the movement to tolerate criticism, and least of all dissent. The Church punished heretics and disbelievers by excommunicating them and condemning them to death in the afterlife. The movement punished heretics and revisionists by expelling them and condemning them to death in this life. The second has been no less dogmatic than the first.

An ironic pass for a movement that has always prided itself with the ability to practice "criticism, self-criticism." A practice that presumably exhorted members to see their faults as ruthlessly as they do other people's. But as many former comrades now recall with no great amusement, even the self-criticism, when they practiced it, was devoted to upholding submission and orthodoxy. The faults one readily admitted had to do with not carrying out tasks faithfully, falling to the temptation of relaxation, comfort and other "bourgeois" indulgences, being "too liberal" and letting pass slights against the leadership or the movement itself. No one criticized himself for embracing a line or policy without question. Critical faculties were to be exercised to the fullest only when analyzing the "contradictions" of the enemy. They were never to be employed in scrutinizing one's own.

The CPP leadership created the "killing fields" in an effort to flush out the enemy from within. It never realized how deep inside the enemy really was.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com

Looking for a dark horse

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

NEOPHYTE Sen. Noli de Castro, who has sat in the Senate for less than two years and therefore has not had enough time to learn the ropes of the trade, walked (not galloped) past former Education Secretary Raul Roco in the March 29-April 12 Pulse Asia survey on possible presidential candidates.

De Castro edged Roco, with 20 percent, while Roco took second place with 18 percent. Given the margin of error of three plus or minus percentage points, the gap is not significant. But the results indicate that the presidential contest has entered a period of volatility, opening the field to new and inspiring entrants.

I don't have a clear idea about why De Castro was the top choice since there is absolutely nothing to recommend him for the presidency. The best explanation for this is probably that he appears regularly on "Magandang Gabi Bayan," his news program on TV, and so he has more public exposure to both the intelligent and the ignorant than any other aspirant. De Castro is no more than a news reader, and if exposure were the main credential to be elected president, then I am afraid news readers have become a major recruitment field for the presidency.

This is bad news for Roco who is not a media or show-biz celebrity. But there is even more gloomy news for him. He lost a percentage point from his 19 percent rating in the Nov. 6-22, 2002, Pulse Asia survey. The bad news is that since President Macapagal-Arroyo announced her withdrawal from the May 2004 elections, Roco has not pulled away, with the President's constituency not shifting to him but scattered among a number of presidential aspirants.

When the November survey was taken, President Macapagal had not yet announced her withdrawal. So, Roco did not gain from it. Roco explained his stagnant position, saying that since he quit the Macapagal Cabinet, he had no public platform for public exposure. He has been a private citizen, not in the public eye, but it must be remembered that his name still has high recall. He ran for president in 1998, he was a senator who figured prominently in the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada, and he was education secretary.

He has however the consolation that he has been ahead of the pack, except when De Castro overtook him. In the March 29-April 12 survey, Sen. Panfilo Lacson trailed him in third place with 12 percent; actor Fernando Poe Jr. had 12 percent, and the President, 9 percent. Why the President's name was listed escapes me, but her inclusion distorted the results.

In the second bracket was Sen. Juan Flavier with 4 percent; Sen. Loren Legarda, 3 percent; Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., 3 percent; Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., 3 percent; and Sen. Edgardo Angara, 2 percent.

The fact that no one has broken through the 20-percent mark four months after President Macapagal's withdrawal delivers the message that no one among the listed names has captured the public's imagination. The implication is that the public is waiting for a dark horse with a heroic appeal and it has not found this inspiring element among the aspirants.

This means the field is wide open for a new man. The list in the first bracket is more of the same, if not composed of spent forces. For example, what do De Castro, Roco, Fernando Poe Jr., Flavier and Legarda stand for. True, Lacson, who was the first to make what amounted to a formal launching of his campaign, stands for law and order, but after that there is nothing.

The name of Magsaysay has come up lately as a dark horse, and also that of Chief Justice Davide. But Davide, who has outstanding credentials for the presidency, threw cold water on attempts to generate a public groundswell for him. Angara, like the President, has categorically declared that he is not running for president.

Thus, most of the names stand for nothing in terms of program of what they will do when elected president. Clearly the public is looking for a leader who can be identified with issues and programs and who can be differentiated from the rest through programs.

Over the past few months, three issues have crystallized reflecting the concerns of most Filipinos. They are: first, the economy; second, law and order (not only the kidnappings and crime in Metro Manila but more so, in the Mindanao conflict); and third, governance or graft and corruption.

I have no idea if De Castro, Poe, Lacson, Roco or even Flavier fits into a leadership mold that can address these issues. Lacson depicts himself as a strong man, but his concept of law and order is narrow: it is all about kidnappings in Metro Manila, which victimize mainly the Chinese-Filipino community. This is the reason he is the darling of the Chinese-Filipino community. He does not have a handle in Mindanao, which is the more serious law and order problem because if someone is kidnapped in Manila, that is routine, but if a bomb explodes in Mindanao, that has international investment and economic repercussions. Lacson's view of law and order is already superseded by new developments. He also has been associated with human rights violation.

Flavier is a folksy and popular man, but he is phlegmatic. Show-biz celebrities have no leadership qualities other than being popular. They are not identified with any programs. They are for everything that feels good, and therefore stand for nothing. Besides, Lacson and Poe are too closely associated with the Estrada regime.

What the public is looking for is a new man who can manage the three issues of concerns I have cited above. It is looking for an action man—clearly none of the above fits the bill.

Entering the Matrix

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

PEOPLE in the trade say that as early as Monday, tickets for the first-day screening of "Matrix Reloaded" tomorrow were already sold out. So it's not as if the movie needs any more help or hype. Just the word "Matrix" is apt to set young male adults, said to be the most profitable demographic among movie audiences, salivating and hyperventilating. And the buzz about "Matrix Reloaded" has been particularly loud. In fact, my children have been regaling me with plot details and character evolutions the past month or so, something the Time magazine cover story only abetted.

So while I'm fairly confident readers don't need any more pushing to return to the world of the Matrix, watching "Reloaded" is too powerful an experience to pass up without comment. I can assure everyone who's paid for advance tickets that it's money well spent. Every second of the film is worth every peso (or whatever a "Matrix" second costs) you paid for it.

After "The Matrix" filmmaking was never the same again. Single-handedly, it raised the action film genre several notches, required every self-respecting director to fill every scene with frenetic energy, put countless folks, from models to TV hosts, into long, dark coats and slinky, shiny jumpsuits and explored the very far frontiers of movie special effects. Every producer with an iota of ambition, including local ones, was henceforth moved to describe his product as "à la Matrix."

But it isn't just the pretty pictures, or the breathless awesome action, that has made the "Matrix" franchise a cultural phenomenon. The original's dense, complex and compelling premise and story not only keeps audiences tuned, it has provoked film scholars and philosophers to publish several books and created a taste for what producer Joel Silver has called "a thinking person's action picture." Not bad for a piece of entertainment, huh?

* * *

BEHIND THE WORLD of "The Matrix" are Larry and Andrew Wachowski, who jointly wrote, directed and executive produced not only the original, but also its sequels "Reloaded" and "Revolutions."

Famously retiring and reclusive, the Wachowskis had long immersed themselves in "stylistic animé films like 'Akira' and 'Ghost in the Shell,' the hyper-kinetic illustrations of comic book artist Geof Darrow and the science fiction of authors such as William Gibson, Philip K. Dick and Lewis Carroll," and in 1999 conceived a film revolving around the "intersection of philosophy, mythology, religion and mathematics."

Exploring themes of "technological alienation, free will, the cost of ignorance and the price of knowledge," "The Matrix" revealed a split-level reality: the "illusion" of what human beings consider their dull, everyday lives, and the "reality" of a world controlled by machines which have used people as little more than "batteries," manipulated into submission by the creation of a bogus reality.

In "The Matrix," the ragtag army of the "liberated," who have managed to escape the Matrix, the system of thought control that keeps people under the machine empire's power, find their salvation in Neo, a computer hacker in his "illusionary" world who turns out to be "The One," the oracular savior of humankind, in the real one.

* * *

AS "Matrix Reloaded" opens, Neo (Keanu Reeves) is feeling far more confident of his powers as "The One," but is bothered by recurring dreams of losing Trinity (Carrie Ann Moss), his sidekick and lover.

Meanwhile, Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne) and the crew of Nebuchadnezzar prepare to return to Zion, the underground colony where the free humans have found sanctuary, which is under attack by an approaching machine army. Morpheus refuses to stay behind to help defend Zion, convinced that the time for ending the War against the Machines is nigh, and that only Neo can accomplish it, subject to instructions from The Oracle.

What follows is a quest, as Neo, Trinity and Morpheus, with the help of such assorted characters as The Keymaker, The Oracle and The Architect, seek the final liberation of humanity, while fending off challenges from old and new villains, including dear Agent Smith (Hugo Weaving) who has transformed himself into a virus.

"The truth is often terrifying, which I think is one of the motifs of Larry and Andrew's cinema," Keanu Reeves has said of the movie. "The cost of knowledge is an important theme. In the second and third films, they explore the consequences of Neo's choice to know the truth. They've made 'Reloaded' and 'Revolutions' even more dense and provocative and entertaining than the first film. It's a beautiful, beautiful story."

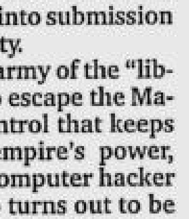
* * *

BY NOW, anyone with an ounce of curiosity about "Matrix Reloaded" would have heard about the "Burly Brawl" and the "Freeway Chase," lengthy sequences that "shock and awe" with their technical brilliance and dazzling bravado.

In the "Burly Brawl," Neo must fight off dozens and even hundreds of Agent Smith replicas, and the sight of a whole mob of black-and-white suited agents flying off and out of the screen is truly awesome. The "Freeway Chase" takes part in a highway built especially for the shooting, and has Trinity flying off in a Ducati motorcycle the wrong way in a busy freeway, Morpheus battling an agent on top of a speeding container truck, and Neo flying in and scooping out Morpheus and the Keymaker from a blinding explosion.

"Matrix Reloaded" closes with the words "To Be Continued," in anticipation of "Revolutions" which comes to theaters in November. But I doubt if even the end of the trilogy will answer all our questions, or tell us finally whether we are living in reality or simply in a world created for us by the Wachowski brothers and their conspirators.

Mabini's writings



LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

OSAKA—Apolinario Mabini is one of my favorite heroes and one who I wish would get the attention and close study that he truly deserves. Jose Rizal left us with 25 volumes of assorted writings, completely translated from the original Spanish and German into English and Filipino, and yet he remains, to my mind, understudied. With Mabini there is even fewer published material: two volumes of his writings in Spanish (only one volume has so far been translated from the original Spanish and published by the National Historical Institute); and, in English, we have a volume of his collected correspondence and his short account, "La Revolucion Filipina," translated by Leon Ma. Guerrero. We know that Mabini destroyed many of his papers shortly before his arrest in 1896, but I am optimistic more material will come to light in libraries outside the Philippines.

In the US Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. are papers from the Malolos Republic that contain, on the margins, Mabini's handwritten replies and recommendations to the president. In the Newberry Library in Chicago is a record of Mabini's brief imprisonment in Bilibid. Surely there is more and all that is needed is a researcher with the sense and skill of a bomb-sniffing dog. One day I hope to read all that is extant and write as much on Mabini as I have done on Rizal.

Mabini's writings are crying out to be read and those who read him will be surprised to find out that he can still speak to our generation. While some people would like to use these writings to hail Mabini as a prophet, someone who saw (or foresaw) many of the socio-political and economic problems we face today, I read Mabini and weep because I know he was not clairvoyant.

The fact that Mabini remains relevant today is proof that we have not progressed much in the past century. Perhaps this centennial year, we will go beyond the floral offerings and speeches and at least get all of Mabini's works translated and have these publications disseminated to schools and the general public. It would also be fitting that the new expressway in Batangas now known by the dull and generic name, STAR Tollway, be renamed the Mabini Tollway so that Filipinos will be made to remember him.

I regret missing the commemoration of the centennial of his death yesterday. There were two sites for this remembrance: in his birthplace in Talaga, Tanawan, Batangas, and in the humble house of wood and nipa where he died on May 13, 1903.

The latter is the shrine along the Pasig that I have visited every year for over 15 years now. I usually sit on the polished floor and look intently at Mabini's chair, trying hard to imagine what this frail man was like, this quiet paralytic who ran the affairs of the First Philippine Republic, someone who is considered the first prime minister and the first foreign secretary of the Philippines. Despite being on the fringes of power he lived and died a humble man and the Nagtahan shrine is quite inspiring. It wasn't even his house, just a house where he lived and died.

This shrine is always clean and well-kept because it has few visitors. Not only is it relatively off the tourist and school excursion route but it can also be difficult, at times, to enter the Presidential Security Group compound. The shrine was spruced up for the President's visit yesterday, and I hope the PSG and the NHI can agree on ways to allow easier access for school groups without sacrificing security.

Mabini was also remembered in our consulate in Osaka in a simple commemoration organized by Consul General Antonio P. Villamayor. Fortunately, I did not have to deliver a lecture but even so I spent the past week rereading Mabini. He actually left a brief bio-data in a diary written when he was in exile in Guam. If I were burdened with the task of introducing him today as a guest speaker, I would simply say, "Ladies and gentlemen the prime minister and foreign secretary of the First Philippine Republic, Señor Don Apolinario Mabini," but these brief notes are the points he would want to be known:

"I was born in 1864 in Tanawan, Batangas. I went to school in Manila in 1881. I spent 1882-83 in Bawan. I returned to Manila to take a course in philosophy in 1884-85. I spent 1886-87 in Lipa. During this time I obtained the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and [accreditation as a] high school teacher. I studied law in 1888 and graduated in 1894. I was paralyzed in January 1896. I was imprisoned by the Spaniards in October of that year, and released in June the following year. I was with [Emilio] Aguinaldo from June 1898 until May 1899. In December 1899 I was captured by the Americans, and deported to Guam in January 1901."

Mabini died on May 13, 1903, a victim of cholera, contracted, it is said, from taking contaminated carabao's milk. Yet Mabini lives through his book, "La Revolucion Filipina," which is not just a history but an analysis of its strengths and weaknesses. It opens with a dedication to his mother, who worked hard to provide him with an education. Mabini wrote:

"Now, wishing to place on your grave a wreath woven by my own hands, I dedicate this humble work, to your memory; it is a poor thing, unworthy of you, yet the best so far woven by the artless hands of your son."

There is Mabini, an example of humility in greatness.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Maximizing benefits of OFW remittances

COMMENTARY

Jeremaiah M. Opiniano
Institute on Church and Social Issues

DAVAO CITY—The recent World Bank report, "Global Development Finance 2003," lists the Philippines as the third largest developing country receiving remittances from its migrant workers. Based on the 2001 remittance figures, India topped the list with $10 billion. Mexico followed with $9.9 billion, and the Philippines was third with $6.4 billion. The three countries' remittances accounted for about 36 percent of total workers' remittance receipts of developing countries (some $72.3 billion).

A much earlier study done by the Center for Development Research (CDR) of Denmark also carried a list of the largest recipients of remittances—this time based on figures from 1995 to 1999. In that list, the Philippines had $29.1 billion, second only to India's $45.9 billion. Mexico, reputedly the world's largest labor-exporting nation, was third on the CDR list, with $28 billion.

Much has been said about how the remittances of Filipino migrants help stabilize the fluctuating foreign exchange rates and improve the country's balance of payments. Periodically, the Department of Labor and Employment and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas harp on how these repatriated earnings have been a boon to the economy. But their usual pronouncement reveal a government strategy that relies on remittances to enable the country to survive economic crises.

One would think that with the continued influx of migrants' remittances, both through formal and informal means, the Philippines should have substantially won the battle against poverty.

It is true that remittances have been the lifeline of many Filipino households. They have spurred personal consumption expenditures, helped offset the country's weaknesses in agriculture and manufacturing, and allowed families to meet their basic economic needs or even enjoy some luxuries. The World Bank report said remittances have been more stable sources of external funding than private capital flows, and are one of the least volatile sources of foreign exchange earnings for developing countries like the Philippines.

Whether we like it or not, this labor-exporting country has been economically dependent on migrants' remittances, which was why the slowness in passing the amendments to the anti-money laundering law created an uproar among the overseas Filipino workers since remittances would have been among the first to be hit if the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) had pursued sanctions against the Philippines.

Unfortunately, the country has yet to maximize the multiplier effect of remittances on employment, consumption and ultimately on growth and development. One wonders why the Filipino exodus continues, given the gradual improvement of our economic conditions supported by remittances. As for the government, its "strategy" (whether it admits this or not) is to continually facilitate international migration and breed more generations of remittance sources. It is to be noted that migration is now a "permanent fixture of Filipinos' socio-economic life," as Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas put it. Previously it was considered merely as a stop-gap measure for domestic unemployment and poverty.

Given this situation, especially for a country that continues to reel from the growth of joblessness and high levels of poverty, it is necessary for different sectors to find ways of deriving the greatest benefit from these remittances. They should see how the economic gains of migration can be maximized and utilized productively through means that will create local opportunities and help advance the social welfare needs of the poor.

There are many ways of dong this. Near Davao City, in the Island Garden City of Samal, the Samal Island Filipino Overseas Workers and Dependents Multipurpose Cooperative and the OFW Investment and Management Corp. are jump-starting a P10-million mari-culture project that will strengthen the local marine industry and provide sustainable livelihood for fishers and tribal people on the island. The OFW Net Foundation, for over a year now, has maintained a bank for OFWs with fairly stable assets.

Returning migrant workers, for their part, have set up co-operatives, associations and self-help groups that have managed to pool their remittances for small and medium enterprises. Over 200 of these groups exist in all regions of the country (over 15 of them work in the Davao region).

The OFWs are also being urged to make investments in the country, and this has been a frequent subject matter in many e-mail groups that have OFWs as members. For some, the approach is philanthropy—to provide the social development needs of hometowns and rural communities. One example is the work of the Washington-based Filipino-American charity, Feed the Hungry. From November 2001 to October 2002, Feed the Hungry has turned over some P13 million in donations to various groups and poor communities nationwide.

The challenge of making sense of these remittances is not easy. It requires a collaborative effort to identify the many needs of the country, and a strategy that attempts to provide benefits to the individual migrant household and multiplier effects to local communities. Let these remittances, said to be "the substance of Filipino migrants' heroism," be utilized to promote conducive investment environments and contribute to a more widespread and equitable distribution of resources.

THEY SAID

Close to danger

"This is the biggest crisis I have ever worked on. To be at the heart of an outbreak, to have a colleague die, to have all this stress and to be so close to the danger changes something in your life."

—World Health Organization's Hanoi team leader Pascale Brudon, announcing that Vietnam had successfully contained SARS

Adaptation

"People adapt themselves to their environment. If the environment is in order, people will act in order."

—Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando

Double standard

"How come it's okay to refer to our private parts in English, while it becomes malicious when we name them in Filipino?"

—Youth advocate Jason Sayawan on teaching children what to call sex organs in both Filipino and English

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Joker debased debate on Charter change

WE have always admired Sen. Joker Arroyo for his doggedness in searching for facts and his proven integrity.

But this integrity does not extend to his latest allegation. He has alleged that House Concurrent Resolution No. 19 was passed without a quorum at midnight on March 19, citing what he claimed to be the House Journal of that day.

Allow me to correct the distortions in his statement.

It is not Resolution No. 19 (as earlier reports quoted him). It is Resolution No. 16.

House Journal No. 62 (covering the period March 17 to 20, 2003) prepared by the Journal Service, does not lie. What it tells us is that a roll call was called upon the motion of Minority Leader Carlos Padilla toward midnight of March 19. Padilla wanted to remand Resolution No. 16 to the committee, claiming that it did not have a budgetary provision to allow participation of overseas Filipino workers in a referendum.

When Padilla moved that the body suspend consideration of the resolution, Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura, chair of the committee on constitutional amendments, objected. Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II then moved for a division of the House.

A roll call was called, and with 147 members present, the chair declared that there was a quorum. (Page 85, Journal No. 62). The body subsequently adopted the resolution by a vote of 134-13.

In the interest of correcting the distortion foisted by the senator from Makati, we are sending this correction. We hope that the senator will find it in his heart to issue a correction and the proper apology.

May we remind Arroyo, who made a name in the House as an opposition stalwart, that the minority bloc, though small, is a vigilant and responsible force and it would have raised hell—and hollered to high heavens—if any such irregularity, as he claimed, had tainted the approval of Resolution No. 16.

The House is one phone call away. But perhaps, Arroyo listened to the wrong information—and applied it wrongly—to debase the debate on Charter reform.

—ARTEMIO A. ADASA JR.,
acting secretary general,
House of Representatives,
Batasan Complex, Quezon City

Late payment of GSIS pension

I AM A Government Service Insurance System pensioner and a resident of Tabaco City. I retired on Feb. 1, 1993 as Attorney VI, chief of legal division of the Civil Service Commission in Regional Office No. 5.

I started receiving my monthly pension check after five years from the date of my retirement. They were mailed to me from the GSIS branch in Naga City.

When the sub-office in Legazpi City became operational about two years ago, pension checks were released to the pensioners by the sub-office every first working day of the month. That was a nice arrangement since all the pensioners could get early their much-needed money which almost always was spent on buying medicines, paying rents and tuition fees of children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces as well as electric, phone and water bills.

But last May 5, the first working day of the month, when we went to the GSIS in Legazpi City, we were told that the checks would no longer be released on the first working day but at end of May.

We were surprised by such a sudden change of policy which was not made known to the retirees. We were not able to buy the bare necessities of life, especially medicine. Neither were we able to pay accounts which had become due.

We have given the best years of our lives to the public service and now that we are old, we are being treated lousily by the GSIS. Maybe it is high time Congress passed a law fixing the date when the GSIS, Social Security System and Philippine Veterans Affairs Office should release the small pension checks of retirees.

We pray that we will be given a fair and kinder treatment in our few remaining years.

—JUSTINIANO P. NAZ,
Tabaco City 4511

Worthy of emulation

THIS has reference to the article "Divers caught spearfishing in Apo Reef" which appeared in the April 28, 2003 issue of the INQUIRER. The printing of the article, specially on the front page, demonstrates the concern of the INQUIRER for the environment.

I commend the parties who filed a complaint with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources against the spearfishers. May their decision serve as an example for all of us to follow. They witnessed a blatant violation of environmental protection laws and they did not ignore it.

—BENJAMIN N. JACINTO, Pasig City

Opposition groups favor Lacson

THIS is in reaction to the article written by Amando Doronila, titled "Bad timing," which appeared in the May 2 issue of your paper.

Doronila discussed what he called as the ill-fated decision by the united opposition to launch the candidacy of Sen. Panfilo Lacson on April 29 at the Club Filipino in San Juan. He justified his observation by noting that "it was launched at the worst possible time—when the front pages of the newspapers were hogged by international concerns over the SARS epidemic." He added: "Lacson, unless he committed suicide, could not have possibly sidelined SARS to claim full attention for himself."

We want to make it clear to Doronila and the readers of your paper that the united opposition was fully aware that the launching of Lacson's candidacy would not be a headline-grabbing event, given the more pressing issues the country was facing. However, we made sure that no election law would be violated in connection with the activity by consulting our lawyers.

In the same column, Doronila painted the united opposition as "one in pathetic disarray," adding that it "highlighted an unbridgeable cleavage between Lacson's group and the faction of Sen. Edgardo Angara, the head of the LDP (Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino) party."

Coming from a veteran and respected newsman, it appeared that Doronila was merely giving an impartial assessment on the latest move of the opposition. However, we want to correct another misimpression which could have been created by his article. For instance, he described the political leaders who came and personally expressed their support for the senator's presidential aspirations as a "profile of failed, discredited and stigmatized government officials" while noting that the exercise was not well attended and did not have the approval of LDP president Edgardo Angara.

Conversely, Doronila unwittingly declared that Angara's LDP was the only true and genuine opposition party while in fact the said exercise was attended by leaders of various political parties from the opposition and the LDP is only one of the many parties under the opposition banner.

We always admire Doronila for his highly intelligent and forceful opinions in analyzing issues of national concern but we just hope that this letter is able to clarify and correct the misimpressions arising from the said column.

—RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ,
spokesman for Sen. Panfilo Lacson,
Suite 308 Heritage Center,
1851 Vasquez St., Malate, Manila

Wallert lying about payoffs

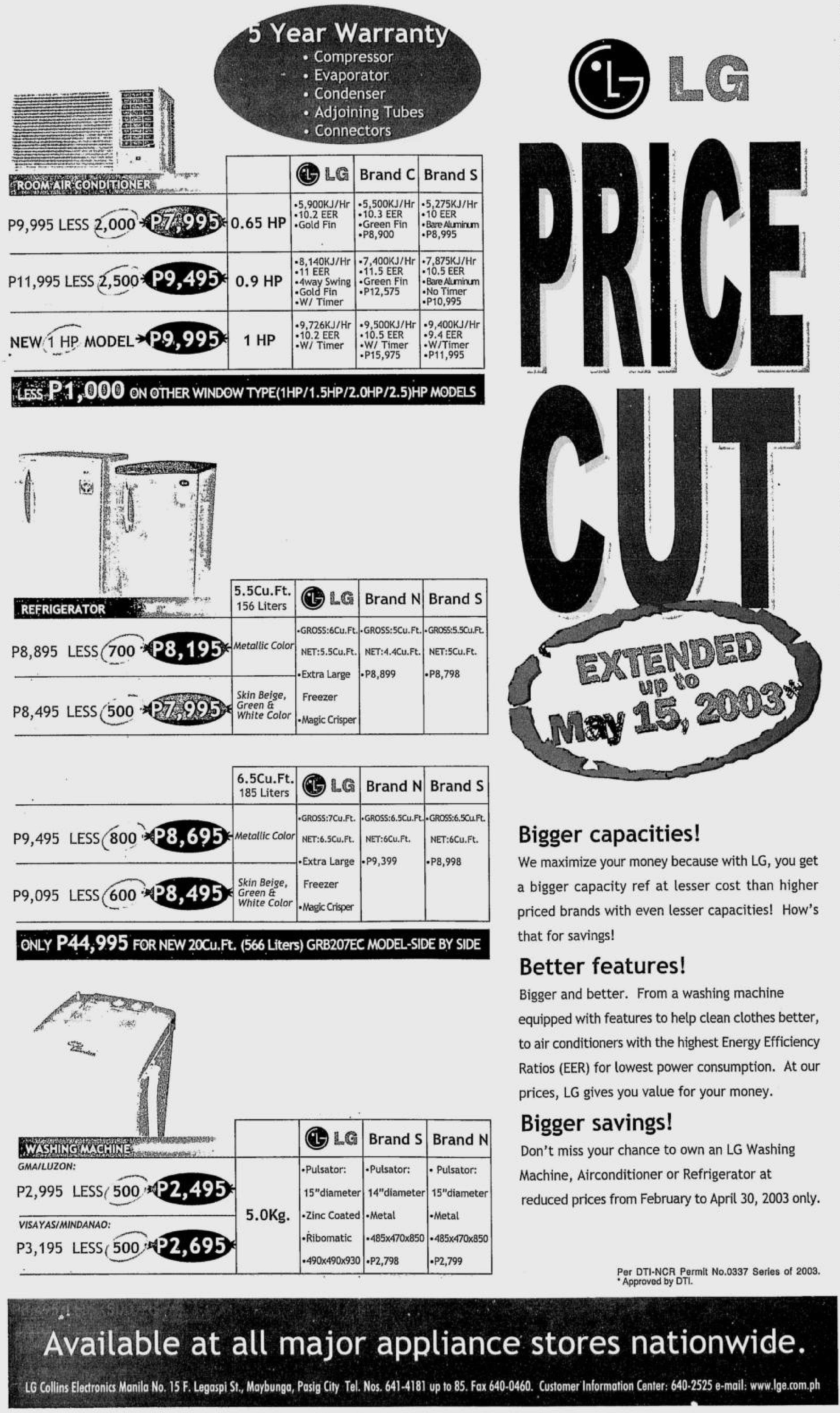
MAY I bring your attention to the article, "Gracia Burnham says troops in cahoots with Abu Sayyaf," on your front page last May 8. I specifically refer to paragraphs eight and nine which mentions my person, and I quote: "Then hostage negotiator Robert Aventajado, flagship projects adviser to then President Joseph Estrada, was accused by German hostage Warner Wallert of forcing the ransom demand up and taking part of the money. Aventajado has denied this."

To be honest, I do not know what your fine newspaper gets out of repeating Wallert's lies about me. For your information, Wallert, along with his wife Renate, who had patently lied about her alleged dire conditions while being held captive by the Abu Sayyaf in Talipao, Jolo, as well as their son, Mark, have been the subject of derision in Germany for having capitalized on their collective experience in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf, charging German media handsome amounts for being interviewed in addition to generating equally large fees for publishing their own exaggerated accounts of their supposed ordeal while in captivity.

Someday, I hope to be able to give my side of the story and I promise that if and when this happens, the account will be an objective, sober and truthful narrative of what really happened during the Sipadan hostage crisis.

Until then, please be assured of my continued respect and patronage of your good newspaper.

—ROBERTO AVENTAJADO,
chair and president, University of the Philippines School of Economics Alumni Association Inc., Suite 1507 Antel Global Corporate Center, Julia Vargas corner Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City



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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

18 new SARS deaths in China, HK, Taiwan

BEIJING—China yesterday reported 10 new Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome deaths and 80 new cases, while seven more SARS patients died in Hong Kong, including a frontline hospital doctor, health officials said.

In Taipei, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian mobilized the military's biochemical warfare laboratory in the battle against SARS as one new death was reported and the infection rate on the island climbed higher.

The new deaths in China take the nationwide death toll to 262 and the cumulative number of cases to 5,086.

Five deaths were in Beijing, three in Inner Mongolia and one each in Tianjin and Shanxi.

Of the new cases, 48 were in the Chinese capital. The rest were in Hebei (14), Shanxi (13), Tianjin (four) and Sichuan (one).

Twenty-one provinces reported no new cases, including Guangdong where SARS originated in November.

Beijing now has recorded 134 deaths and 2,347 confirmed cases.

An additional 84 new suspected cases were noted nationwide, taking to the total to 2,412.

In Hong Kong the seven new deaths brought the SARS toll in the island to 225 although there were just six new cases of the disease, health officials said Tuesday.

Hong Kong has now suffered 1,689 cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome, but another 25 people have recovered and been discharged, for a total of 1,091.

Hong Kong's new cases have dropped into the single digits for 10 consecutive days now, and the territory is hoping that the World Health Organization will soon lift a travel advisory that has badly hurt airlines, hotels and other businesses.

The latest fatalities were aged 35 to 79, and four had been sick with other chronic diseases before they caught SARS, officials said.

In Taiwan, 13 new cases and one death from SARS were confirmed Tuesday, bringing the island's total to 25 deaths from 220 infections, according to the Department of Health.

Of the 13 new cases, three were linked to the mass infections at the Taipei Municipal Hoping Hospital, it said.

The Military Preventive Medical Research Institute was asked to cooperate with a special SARS research team led by Lee Yuan-tseh, a Nobel Prize winner for chemistry in 1986, the Presidential Office said in a statement.

Chen issued the order while visiting the institute in Tashi, a town in northern Taoyuan county. Experts said the announcement was in itself an indication of just how serious the SARS epidemic was on the island, as the institute has been off-limits to the media since it was established three decades ago.

In SARS-hit Singapore, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder filled out a health declaration form and was screened by thermal imaging camera like other arriving visitors after he touched down at Changi airport as part of Southeast Asian tour.

Meanwhile SARS fears spread further afield.

Nigeria was screening visitors for signs of the disease after a Taiwanese businessman died of suspected SARS in the west African nation.

Health officials believed the man—who died Feb. 28—had been in contact with about 30 Nigerians in Kano and Lagos, the country's largest city.

All have been placed under medical surveillance and six developed "flu-like symptoms" but fully recovered, Nigeria's health minister Alphonsus Nwosu said.

With a population of more than 126 million, Nigeria is Africa's most populous country. Health experts fear the world's poorest continent—with poor health care and millions already weakened by AIDS—would be unable to cope with SARS, with devastating consequences should the virus spread there.

Underscoring its concerns about SARS, Nigeria canceled plans to play in the three-nation Kirin Cup 2003 soccer tournament in June, the Japan Football Association said. Nigeria was chosen as a replacement for Portugal, which pulled out earlier this month also because of the SARS scare. Argentina will also play in the competition. *AFP, AP*

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New administrator takes charge of Iraq rebuilding

US forces arrest ‘Dr. Germ’

BAGHDAD—A new US official charged with rebuilding Iraq arrived in Baghdad as US forces announced the arrest of Iraq's former director of biological weapons.

Paul Bremer became the new chief US administrator for Iraq as the United States revamped a leadership that has been blasted for slowness in restoring running water, collecting rotting trash and providing security.

Bremer, a career diplomat and anti-terrorism expert, said: "We came to overthrow a despotic regime. That we have done. Now our job is to turn and help the Iraqi people regain control of their own destiny."

The new US boss is expected to replace most if not all of the officials who had started under Jay Garner. Garner, a retired army general, was recalled by Washington.

The failure of the US occupying force to restore security has been a particularly contentious issue for many Iraqis, as armed gangs terrorize local people and steal cars.

But Lt. Gen. David McKiernan, commander of allied land forces in Iraq, said: "Each day is a step in the right direction. It's not something that can happen overnight."

In addition to reconstructing a nation battered by three wars in 23 years and weakened over the past decade by crippling UN sanctions, Bremer must also oversee the country's transition to an interim government.

The leader of Iraq's main Shiite faction returned to his birthplace of Najaf after 23 years in exile. His triumphant three-day tour of the country underlined the potential political clout of Shiites, who make up 60 percent of the population in Iraq.

Ayatollah Mohammed Baqer al-Hakim, who heads the Supreme Assembly for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), was greeted by tens of thousands of people in the holy city, where he was to visit the shrine of the first Shiite imam, Ali.

The capture of Rihab Rashid Taha, known as "Dr. Germ," follows the seizure this month of another key female scientist involved in the biological weapons program, dubbed "Mrs. Anthrax."

Taha does not figure on the US list of the 55 most-wanted Iraqis, at least 19 of whom have been rounded up. However, she could divulge whether Saddam Hussein's deposed regime was developing banned weapons.

US officials have said that Taha, who was partly trained in Britain, led Iraq's drive to use deadly anthrax bacteria as a weapon.

The United States used accusations that Saddam was developing weapons of mass destruction as the main justification for a war on Iraq that began on March 20.

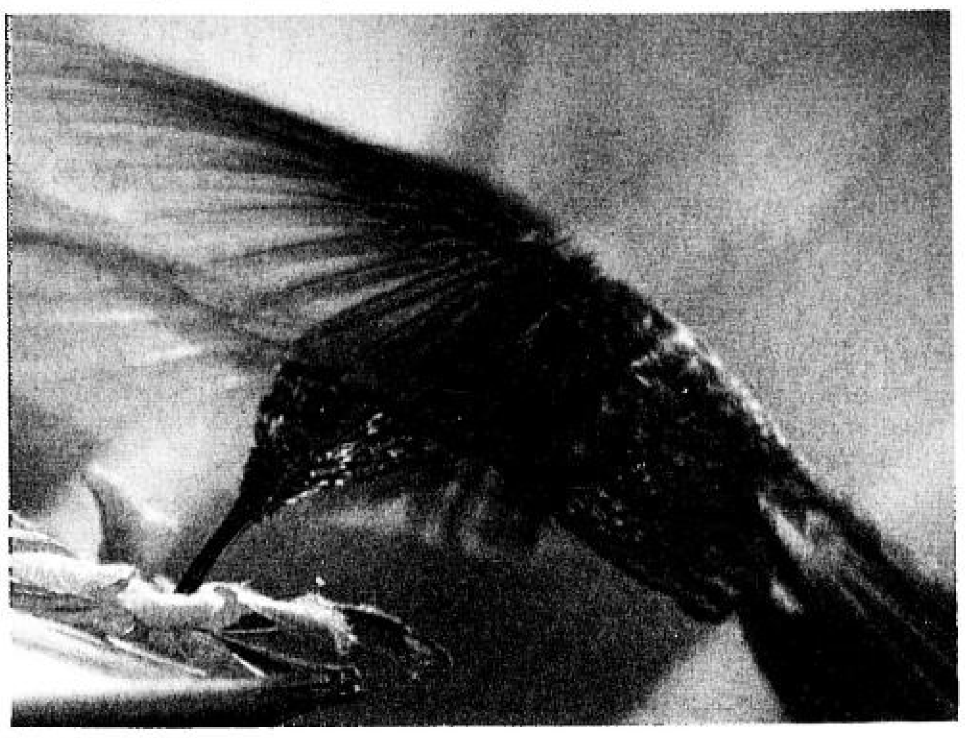
But more than a month after US forces rolled almost unopposed into Baghdad, US and British troops have yet to find such weapons.

The White House said a second rolling laboratory, potentially used to produce banned weapons, had been found in Iraq.

"There is new indications of a second mobile bio truck, a second bio truck. It will be examined, just as the first one was, and we will be diligent and thorough," spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

Last week, US defense officials said a tractor trailer seized by US forces on April 19 in northern Iraq appears to be part of a mobile weapons lab.

Meanwhile, controversy swirled around a US draft resolution submitted to the UN security council last week that would end sanctions against Iraq. *AFP*



KISS OF LIFE
A humming bird inserts his beak into a flower May 12 in Mexico City. AFP

Indonesia warns Aceh offensive may be days away

JAKARTA—Indonesia warned that it could launch a new military offensive in Aceh province within days after rebels ignored its deadline to disarm. However, international mediators Tuesday said a compromise was still possible.

More than 6,000 troops were preparing to enter the restive province and an army spokesperson said they were "waiting for the green light."

International negotiators, wanting to salvage a five-month-old peace agreement, said parallel talks with the government and the Free Aceh Movement were continuing in Indonesia's capital Jakarta as well as Stockholm—where some key rebels live in exile—and Banda Aceh, which is Aceh's provincial capital.

Security Minister Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono predicted President Megawati Sukarnoputri would authorize a security operation this week.

"We plan to meet with Parliament Thursday and explain how we think the Aceh problem should be solved," he said.

A Monday deadline for rebels to accept government demands to disarm and drop an independence bid passed without incident.

Even so, international peace monitors relocated to Medan in neighboring North Sumatra province as a safety precaution. Negotiators said war could be avoided.

"It's a very small window here and it is closing quickly," said David Gorman, a negotiator with the Geneva-based Henry Dunant Center, which brokered the Dec. 9 peace agreement. "But it's not dead yet. We're asking both sides to take a step back and look at what the agreement has achieved. Right now, everyone needs to cool down."

The pact to end the 26-year civil war—which has killed nearly 12,000 people on the northern tip of Sumatra island, about 1,770 km northwest of Jakarta—has been near collapse in recent weeks.

The government has intensified its threats of a military offensive and talks have repeatedly been delayed.

Indonesia's army chief Gen. Ryamirzard Ryacudu was in Banda Aceh Tuesday to oversee the replacement a local military chief with one from Jakarta. Ships with more than 6,000 troops docked Tuesday at Bintan Island, near Singapore ahead of a possible offensive.

"We are ready. We are waiting for the green light," Aceh military spokesperson, Lt. Col. Firdaus Komarno. "There has been no ambush, not even a peep from the rebels in the last two days."

Rebels issued a statement last week calling on fighters to return to their bases and for civilians to stay away from work and other activities starting Monday. However, rebels on Tuesday said they were still prepared to talk. *AP*

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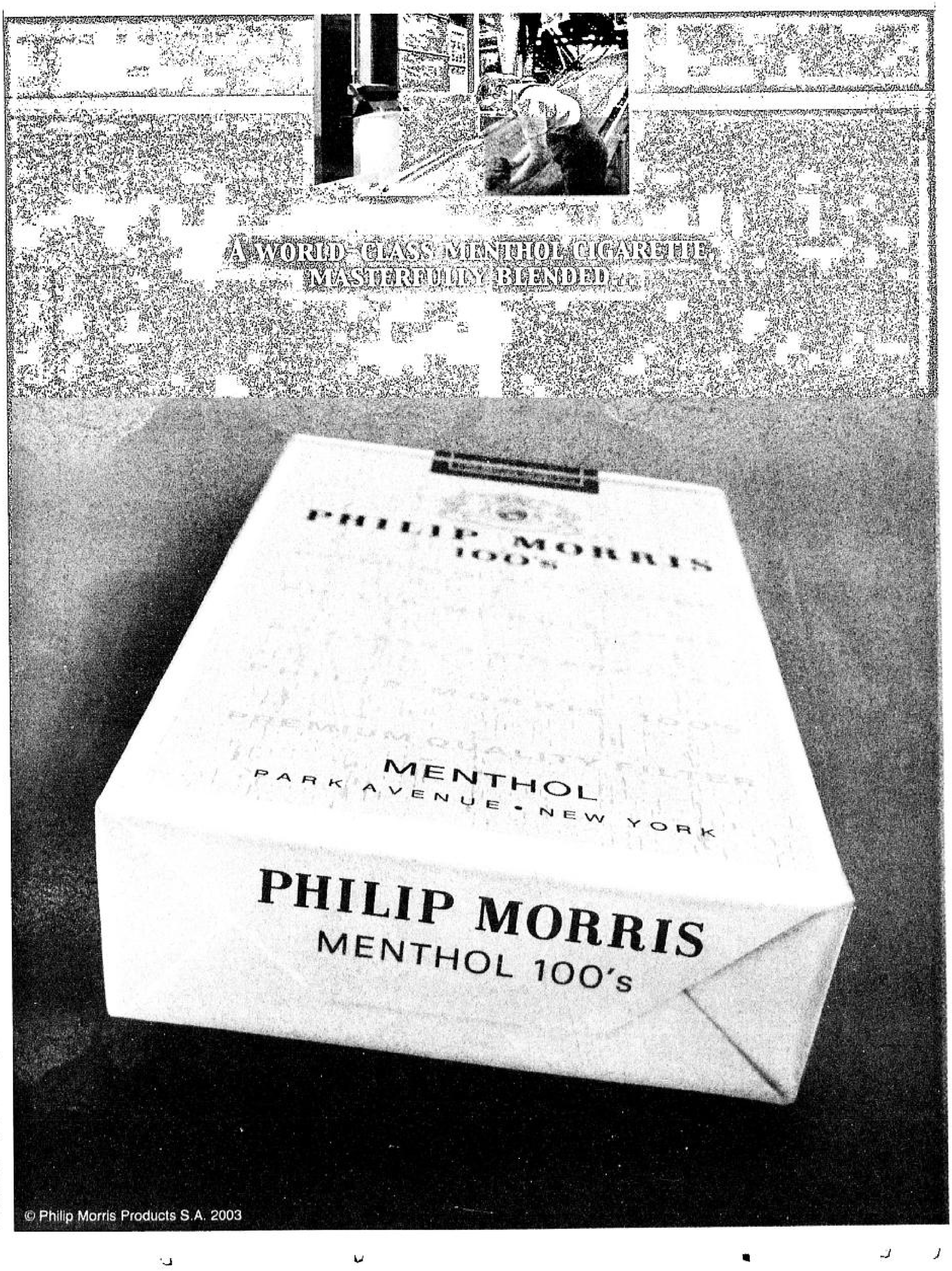

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North Korea declares nuclear pact with South 'dead'

SEOUL—Communist North Korea on Tuesday declared a decade-old agreement with South Korea to keep the Korean peninsula nuclear weapons-free a "dead document" and blamed the United States for the demise of the accord.

In a statement denouncing Washington on the eve of a White House summit between US President George W. Bush and South Korean counterpart Roh Moo-Hyun, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said the 1992 North-South pact had been nullified.

The agreement was the last legal restraint on North Korean nuclear ambitions after the Stalinist regime pulled out of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and abandoned a 1994 arms control accord with the United States.

Last month China warned North Korea that pursuit of nuclear weapons would breach the joint North-South accord, while South Korea also reminded Pyongyang it was still bound by the agreement.

"The Bush administration has systematically and completely torpedoed the process of denuclearization on the Korean peninsula," KCNA said. "The inter-Korean declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula was thus reduced to a dead document..."

A top South Korean official traveling with Roh said the Seoul government had received no official word from North Korea concerning the accord.

"We need a review of this problem in talks with the United States. However I think the North Korean authorities have not officially declared it nullified yet," Roh's foreign policy advisor Ban Ki-Moon told journalists.

Roh, visiting the United States on his first foreign trip since taking office in February, meets with Bush at the White House on Wednesday.

The two leaders will discuss the seven-month-old nuclear crisis sparked by Pyongyang's reported admission in October that it was developing nuclear weapons through an enriched uranium program.

US officials believe that North Korea has already diverted enough plutonium from a separate nuclear programme frozen under the now-defunct 1994 accord for one or two atomic bombs.

Washington is insisting that Pyongyang scrap its nuclear programs as a first step before negotiations to resolve the crisis can progress. North Korean wants Washington to drop its "hostile" policy toward the Stalinist regime first.

In a separate dispatch, KCNA said it was this hostile US policy that had soured North Korea's efforts to improve ties with South Korea and Japan and compelled the Stalinist state to build its own "deterrent force."

The South Korean president is an advocate of engagement with the North but has been increasingly criticial of the Pyongyang regime while Japan has frozen efforts begun last year to normalize ties with North Korea.

The United States said North Korea had admitted possessing nuclear weapons during exploratory talks in Beijing last month, and was reprocessing thousands of spent fuel rods that could provide plutonium for several more within months.

KCNA said the lesson North Korea had learned from the US-led war in Iraq was to arm itself with a "deterrent force" capable of repelling any attack.

North Korea frequently accuses the United States of planning a preemptive strike. Pyongyang warned that it would meet force with force. *AFP*

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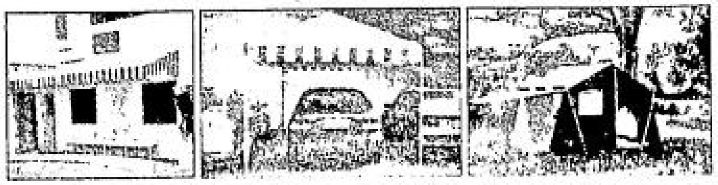

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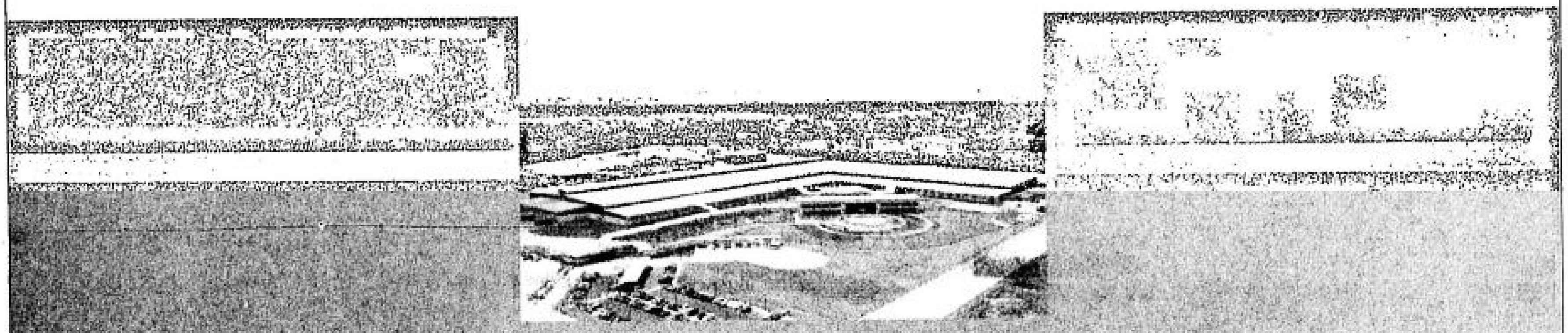

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UK minister slams Blair for bullying UN council

LONDON—In one of the most personal resignation attacks the British parliament has seen for years, a top cabinet member blasted Prime Minister Tony Blair Monday for bullying the UN Security Council over Iraq's reconstruction.

The British government "is supporting the US in trying to bully the Security Council into a resolution that gives the coalition the power to establish an Iraqi government and control the use of oil for reconstruction with only a minor role for the UN," Clare Short told the House of Commons as she resigned as international development secretary.

Her comments were regularly punctuated by gasps of surprise and intakes of breath from MPs, while Foreign Secretary Jack Straw looked on stony-faced.

"The problem now is that that the mistakes that were made in the period leading up to the (Iraq) conflict are being repeated in the post-conflict situation," Short said.

"In particular, the UN mandate necessary to bring into being a legitimate Iraqi government is not being supported by the UK government," Short said.

Within an hour of her resignation, Valerie Amos, one of Short's deputies in the Department for International Development and a Baroness in Britain's upper chamber, the House of Lords, was appointed to replace her.

Guyana-born Amos, 49, became the first black woman to serve in Britain's so-called cabinet of senior government ministers.

Short became the second senior member of Blair's cabinet to resign over the Iraq war. Former foreign minister Robin Cook resigned as leader of the House of Commons, the lower house of parliament, in March over the government's decision to join the US-led war on Iraq.

Calling Blair's stance on Iraq "reckless," Short had also threatened to resign in March unless the UN authorized the use of force against Iraq. But Blair, she said, convinced her to remain in her post even though the United States and Britain launched war against Iraq without such a resolution. *AFP*

US authorities simulate terror hit on Seattle

SEATTLE—US authorities staged a simulated attack on Seattle on Monday, including real fires and a fake "dirty bomb," to test emergency crews' ability to handle disasters in the post-Sept. 11 world.

A similar test involving a simulated biological attack was scheduled for later in the day in Chicago.

The Seattle "attack" commenced at about noon with two explosions and the lighting of two fires that spewed acrid black smoke into the air above an open gravel pit south of downtown.

Three minutes later, the first of dozens of fire and emergency vehicles started arriving. Firefighters put out the fires within 22 minutes although the smoke, carrying simulated radioactive material, was carried for miles on a brisk wind.

Emergency personnel searched the wreckage of two buses and several bombed-out cars for "victims."

The simulations, the largest homeland security exercise yet in the United States, will cost $16 million and run through Friday in Seattle and Chicago and then move to Vancouver, Canada.

Hundreds of police, firefighters and emergency workers were participating in the fictitious low-level radiation attack and a total of 8,500 people around the country were taking part in the exercise applauded by health care experts.

"You cannot do enough exercises. I'd like to see every hospital do one at least four times a year," said R. Gregory Evans, director of the Center for the Study of Bioterrorism and Emerging Infections at St. Louis University. *Reuters*

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Jack Kennedy, like Bill Clinton, may have had a Monica

LEWINSKY

KENNEDY

NEW YORK—President John F. Kennedy, like Bill Clinton decades later, may have had an affair with a young White House intern, according to newly released documents from the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston.

More than 35 years before Clinton was impeached after lying about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, Kennedy may have had an affair with an attractive 19-year-old woman with limited office skills, presidential historian Robert Dallek concluded from the documents.

Dallek's biography of the 35th president, "An Unfinished Life: John F. Kennedy, 1917-1963," containing details of the supposed affair, hits bookstands on Tuesday.

The author's conclusions stem from a 1964 interview with Barbara Gamarekian, a press aide in the Kennedy White House, who recalled her experiences for an oral history project for the Kennedy Library.

"Obviously, she did have sort of a special relationship with the president," Gamarekian said of the woman.

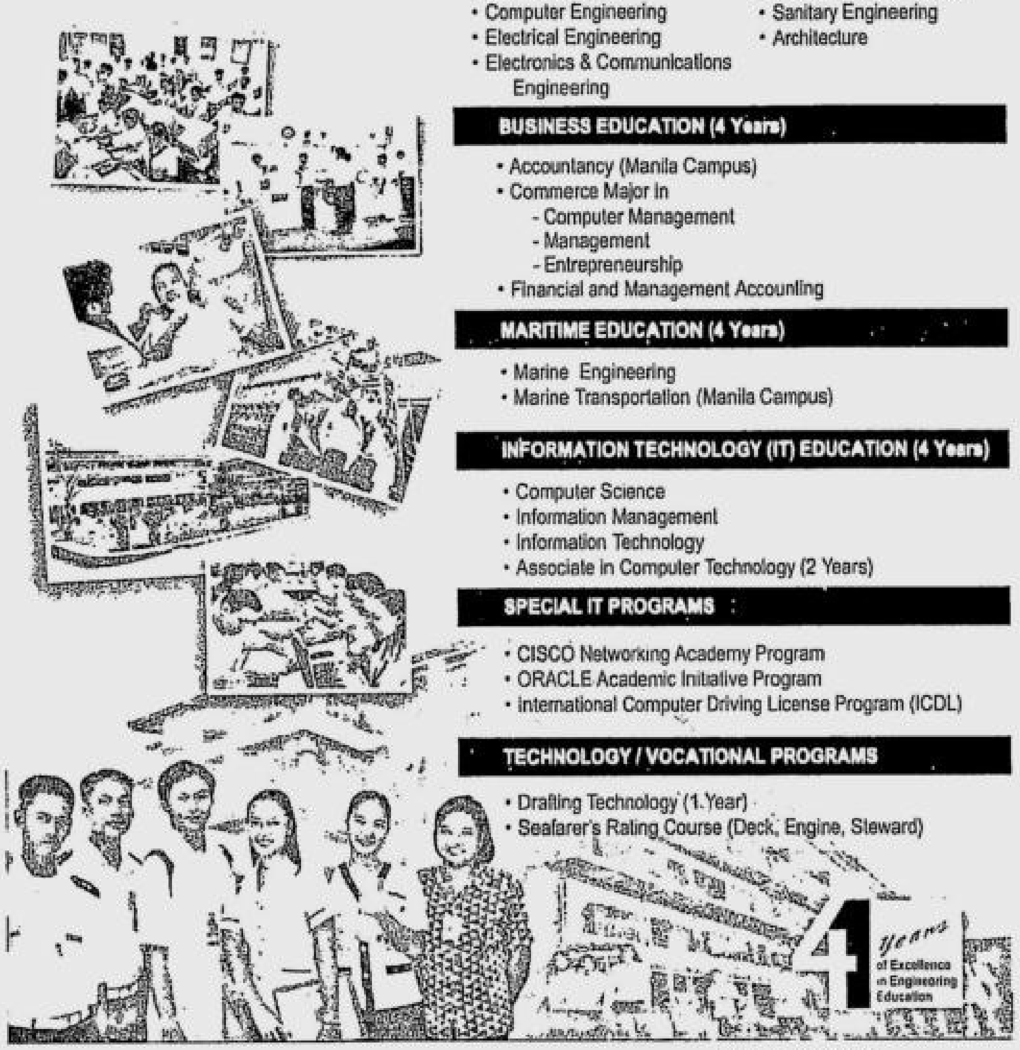
Gamarekian said in the interview, "She couldn't type... She could answer the phone and she could handle messages and things, but she was not really a great asset to us."

But Kennedy brought the intern along on presidential trips, according to Gamarekian.

In a "Dateline NBC" program broadcast on Sunday, Dallek said, "Apparently her only real skill was to provide sexual release for JFK on these trips, and maybe at the White House."

The transcript of Gamarekian's recollections includes 17 pages touching on the alleged affair, which Gamarekian had originally asked the Kennedy Library to keep sealed. Gamarekian allowed Dallek to read those pages for his research, and the library has now made public the entire transcript.

Dallek, who has also written books about Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson, could not be reached for comment. Gamarekian did not return a phone call seeking comment. *Reuters*



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Tribal folk swap trees for guns

By **Melvin Gascon**, *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The forest resources at the watershed of the Casecnan River are steadily being depleted, and the dwellers, Bugkalot folk, are trading them for guns.

Environment officials here have launched an inquiry into the logging operations of the Bugkalot Ancestral Land Domain Association of Alfonso Castañeda (Baldaac) following reports of alleged irregularities committed by its members, including bribery and gun trading.

The Baldaac is an association of Bugkalot tribal members in Barangay Pelaway in upland Alfonso Castañeda town. It is one of the organizations that were given permits to manage 85,219 hectares of Casecnan forests covered by the Bugkalot ancestral domain claim.

Sources in the local furniture industry claimed that firearms, ranging from .45 and .38 cal. pistols to rifles, were being accepted as payment for felled *narra* tree (*Pterocarpus indicus*) being transacted by "lowlanders" who are engaged in the furniture trade.

"(Owning a gun) has become an obsession for several Bugkalot, that for every deal for *narra*, guns were, at times, the preferred payment," a source told the INQUIRER.

The source claimed that it was now normal in Bugkalot villages to see a man walking with a rifle slung on his back or doing shooting drills.

Forester Valentin Baccay, during a recent meeting of the forest protection council here, corroborated the gun swapping report.

Baccay said Department of Environment and Natural Resources personnel in the area had already expressed apprehension over anti-illegal logging operations in the Casecnan area.

The Certificate of Ancestral Land Domain Claim (CADC) agreement was devised to provide livelihood assistance for the Bugkalot, while they serve as the DENR arm in protecting the watershed forest of the Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project.

Under the livelihood component of the CADC agreement, Bugkalot members are allowed to use "waste" forest resources—felled trees, treetops and stumps—to be converted into and sold as "finished products," like furniture.

Another source claimed that despite having consumed more than its allowable volume, the Baldaac has allowed the exit of truckloads of freshly cut *narra* from the Casecnan area even without cutting and shipping permits from the DENR.

"Having (shipping) documents becomes (irrelevant) so long as the price is right," the source said.

Eric Gabogen, Baldaac acting chair, denied the report.

"Rumors are just rumors. We are holders of (an) interim resource use permit issued by the concerned agency, so how could it become illegal?" he said.

"Accusations should be proven with sufficient evidence," Gabogen said.

Quezon townsfolk regain mangrove forests

By **Delfin. T. Mallari Jr.**
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

INFANTA, Quezon—Some 3,000 residents of this sleepy town in northern Quezon hugged one another, danced and shed tears as they planted at least 5,000 mangrove seedlings in the muddy fishpond in Barangay Binulasan to the tune of the village lyre band on Monday.

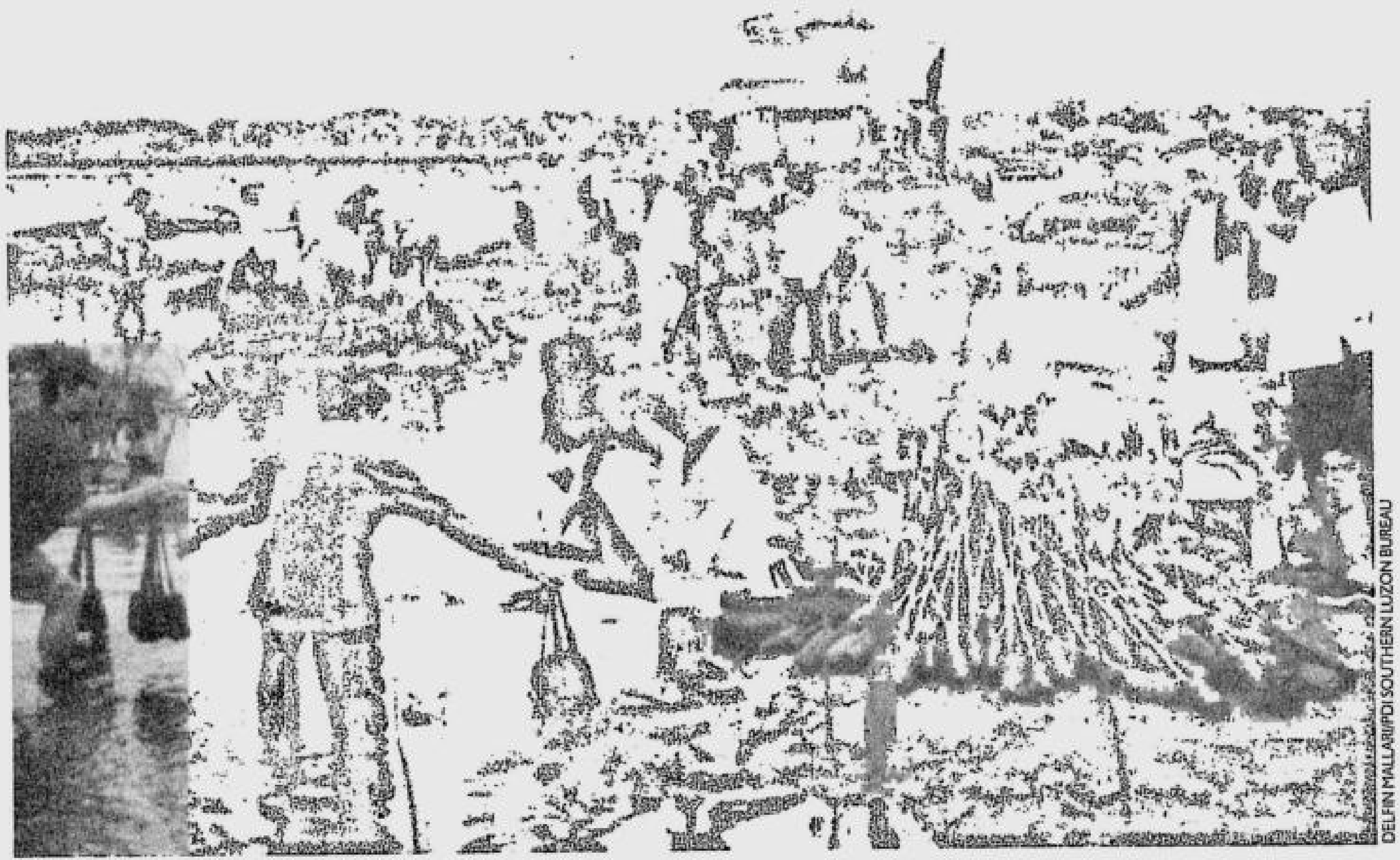
It was the townsfolk's celebration of their triumph when they formally took possession of one of the illegal fishpond projects in the area.

"This undertaking is one clear-cut statement. Hopefully, other illegal fishpond operators in the area would view this event as a strong warning that their days are now numbered. That they could no longer continue raping the environment and depriving the people of their indigenous and natural source of life," said lawyer Asis Perez, director of the Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog, an environmental legal defense center that assisted the local residents in their struggle.

Last week, Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. finally rejected the application of former Caloocan City Mayor Macario "Boy" Asistio for a fishpond lease of a 15-hectare area in Barangay Binulasan, this town.

"The improvements and permanent fixtures introduced in the premises, including the fruits thereof such as fish or fingerlings stocked in the ponds are hereby forfeited in favor of the government," Lorenzo said in his "Order of Execution" dated May 7.

Lorenzo also ordered Asistio to immediately vacate the area upon receipt of the order.



DELFIN MALLARI/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

RESIDENTS of Infanta, Quezon work together to revive and start again the cycle of their treasured mangrove forest.

On Sept. 13 last year, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued an order rejecting Asistio's fishpond application and denying his appeal "for lack of merit."

Oca Catelo of the Infanta Community Development Assistance Inc. described the event as a "triumph of the people."

"The people have shown and manifested doggedness in their pursuit of justice. They were harassed and hauled in court but they never gave up," he said.

On the entrance of the slippery trail for the final walk toward the fishpond, a group of village policemen handed every participant at least two mangrove seedlings to be planted inside the pond.

Guns seized from brother of Jalosjos

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Government soldiers on Monday seized assorted firearms allegedly owned by Cesar Jalosjos, brother of convicted child rapist former Rep. Romeo Jalosjos.

The firearms, hidden under the seat of a Pajero Land Cruiser, were discovered by 5th Marine Battalion Landing Team soldiers manning checkpoints in Barangay Tetuan here.

Seized were five M-16 rifles, five .45 cal. pistols, a .22 cal. pistol, two 9-mm pistols, assorted ammunition and three handheld radio units.

Jalosjos claimed the firearms were legal. Gen. Trifonio Salazar, chief of the 1st Infantry Division, said the firearms had supporting papers. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Coco firm hit for polluting Misamis Oriental waters

MEDINA, Misamis Oriental—Residents of this town have criticized a coconut processing firm here for allegedly not doing anything to stop the pollution of the Cabug Bay.

They said marine life in the bay had been degraded as a result of the pollution.

A 2001 study by the Fisheries Resource Management Project (FRMP) in Gingoog Bay and the Mindanao State University in Naawan, Misamis Oriental corroborated the residents' allegations against Fiesta Brands Inc. (FBI), which produces coconut milk powder and other coconut products.

Untreated solid wastes from FBI and another coconut firm, Indophil, in Gingoog City were behind the reduction in marine life in areas near their factories, the study said.

The FBI denied responsibility for the pollution, saying residents must consider other reasons such as illegal fishing.

But the Center for Alternative Rural Technology, a nongovernment group helping the FRMP, said that even the Department of Environment and Natural Resources reported the same findings in areas where the coconut factories discharge their effluents.

The INQUIRER learned that prior to the study, the Pollution Adjudication Board of the Environmental Management Bureau in Northern Mindanao had ordered the temporary closure of FBI and fined the firm P13 million.

But on Jan. 13, 2001, the order was lifted after FBI claimed it had reduced its production, enabling its existing plant to treat its wastes.

In January, residents raised the alarm anew after they allegedly noticed a degradation of the town's marine resources.

Fishermen said that even bottom-dwelling organisms, like shells, sea cucumbers and small crabs that used to be abundant, could no longer be found.

Because of the situation, the Municipal Fisherfolk and Aquatic Resources Management Council and the Ecumenical Alliance for Renewal of Society launched on March 5 a signature campaign urging FBI to comply with the law on proper waste water disposal.

On March 18, the town council threw its support for the campaign.

In a dialogue held on April 21 with EMB regional director Sabdullah Abubakar, the residents called for the temporary closure of FBI.

They wanted the firm to finish a new water treatment facility before it was allowed to operate again.

Cecille Micabalo, FBI plant manager, admitted that the first phase of the treatment plant was not enough to comply with the 97-percent biochemical oxygen demand, the reason they were building a second phase.

But she said the firm was treated unfairly when residents went to the media instead of telling them about the complaints.

"The stories that came out in print decreased our revenues since our competitors used it against us. We are not amiss (in) our duty (for) the environment much more to the community," Henry Raperoga, FBI vice president for finance, told the INQUIRER.

Micabalo said other factors might have been responsible for the pollution. "There is dynamite fishing here, why are they not considering that? Also the domestic waste perhaps has contributed as well," Micabalo said. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 366 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Japanese-Filipino couple jailed for death of own son

By **Suzzane B. Salva**
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A Japanese and his Filipino wife were detained by police here to face parricide charges for the death of their barely 2-month-old son. A doctor claimed the baby could have been a victim of physical abuse.

Daisuke Kishi, 24, and his wife, Loreta, 26, have been held since Thursday at the police detention center here and face parricide charges by Assistant City Prosecutor Fernando Gulabane.

Police had already conducted an investigation into the death of 51-day-old Diether Lorence Kishi on May 7.

The case stemmed from a request of Dr. Nora Redulla, a pediatrician at the Cebu Doctor's Hospital (CDH), for the conduct of an autopsy on the baby whom she believed was "killed in a violent manner."

The baby, born on March 27, was declared dead on arrival at the hospital on May 7. He allegedly had a cardiac arrest.

Loreta allegedly told Redulla that her son was crying the night before. She remembered putting the baby to sleep "face down" and only to wake up "with the baby appearing to be dead."

But upon examination, Redulla noticed a contusion on the baby's left cheek, cuts below the nose and deformity on the child's lower right leg.

Redulla said Loreta had told her that the contusion might have been caused by the incident on May 6 when her husband bathed the baby. The baby slipped and hit his face on the edge of the tub, she had been told.

Loreta also claimed that the cuts below the child's nose were due to its frequent wiping since her son had colds.

Redulla was, however, unsatisfied with the explanation and ordered an X-ray examination on the child. The X-ray report showed that the baby had fractures in the head and right leg.

Redulla, in her affidavit, said she requested CDH personnel to inform the police about the child's death. She also ordered that the be held until an autopsy was conducted.

She said she was alarmed when the hospital personnel had told her that an autopsy could not be conducted because the child's parents wanted the baby cremated.

"I went to the Cebu City Police Office to report (the matter) because the statement of the mother was inconsistent with the result of the findings," Redulla said.

The autopsy conducted by police medico-legal officer Nestor Sator supported Redulla's suspicion.

His findings showed physical injuries caused by a hard object, but "I cannot rule out other possibilities."

Kishi's counsel, Vicente Fernandez, questioned the arrest of the couple as without basis.

The affidavit of Redulla did not point to the parents as the culprits behind the child's death, Fernandez said.

ROUNDUP

NPA rebel killed

MORONG, Bataan—A suspected member of the New People's Army and a 10-year-old girl were killed on Sunday night when three men fired at a tricycle in Barangay Poblacion here. Police identified the victims as Mike Abad, said to be an NPA rebel, and Angeline Castro, 10. Abad was driving his tricycle when gunmen shot him in the head and left arm. Castro, who was walking nearby, was hit by a stray bullet. Police said Abad could have been killed because of an ongoing rift between the NPA and the Rebulusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan. Reports said Abad had tipped off the police about the presence of RHB members in Pilar town.
Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Boy hunted for rape

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Police here are hunting a 17-year-old boy accused of raping his 9-year-old cousin on Thursday. SPO4 Teresita Ponseca of the city police's women's and children's protection desk, said the suspect raped the victim at around 1:30 p.m. inside the house of their aunt in Barangay San Jose. The victim claimed the suspect raped her four times.
Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Theft in police camp

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Even the biggest police camp in Central Luzon is not safe from thieves. While the flag-raising ceremony was being held here on Monday, an undetermined amount of cash, bank cards and other valuables were being taken from the bags of three employees of the Philippine National Police's finance service office here. Reports said Nympha Teano, PO1 Sherlyn Banares and Angela Reyes left their bags in the office to attend the flag ceremony. After 15 minutes, they could no longer find their bags, they said.
Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Escapees arrested

BAGUIO CITY—Police have arrested four of 10 inmates who escaped from the Kalinga provincial jail in Tabuk town last week. A statement from the Cordillera police office said Arman Wandas, Awas Agyao, Franklin Asbucan and Eric Casin were arrested immediately after the jailbreak on May 1. Police officials in Kalinga have ordered the investigation of five guards assigned to the provincial jail during the jailbreak. The inmates escaped by sawing off the iron bars of one of the cells. They took the .45 cal. and 9-mm pistols of jail guards Marcelo Gunaban and Reynante Baday, and three shotguns from the office of the assistant jail warden.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Marijuana burned

BAGUIO CITY—Police uprooted more than P1.1 million worth of marijuana plants at the boundary of Benguet and Ifugao last week. A Cordillera police report said policemen discovered the marijuana plantation in Sitios Sangil, Sangen and Gusaran in Tinoc, Ifugao. They burned 5,560 fully grown marijuana plants in the plantation. No suspect, however, was arrested. Reports said the police and the regional Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency had destroyed more than P85 million worth of marijuana plants from January to March.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Village chair killed

DIFFUN, Quirino—The president of this town's Association of Barangay Captains was killed while a village councilman was wounded on Sunday when armed men attacked them in Barangay Ricarte Norte here, police said. Geronimo Bautista, ABC Diffun league president, succumbed to three bullet wounds in the chest. Village councilman Teodoro Alcantara was wounded and was taken to a hospital in nearby Isabela. Reports said Bautista and Alcantara were in a drinking session in the village when they were attacked. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Gawad-Saka award

SORSOGON CITY—Two farmers and two groups were given the Provincial Gawad-Saka Awards sponsored by the Provincial Agriculture Office and the Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Council. Those awarded were Francisco Aranda of this city, outstanding high value commercial crops farmer; Jerry Espares from Bulan, outstanding small animal raiser; Municipal Agricultural and Fisheries Council of Gubat, outstanding MAFC; and Layog Rural Improvement Club of Barcelona, outstanding RIC. *Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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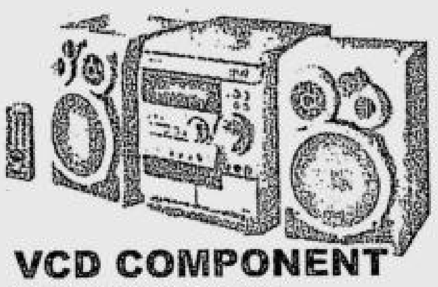

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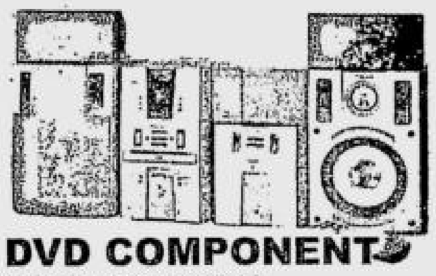

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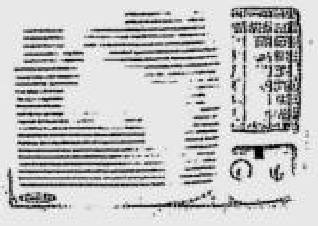

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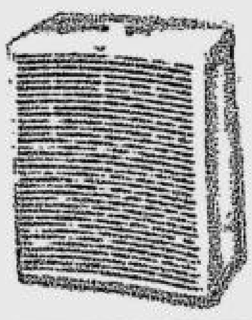

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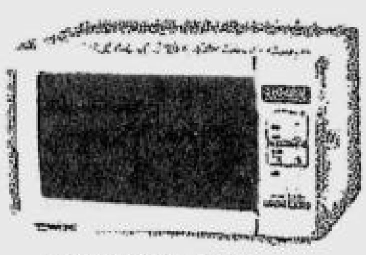

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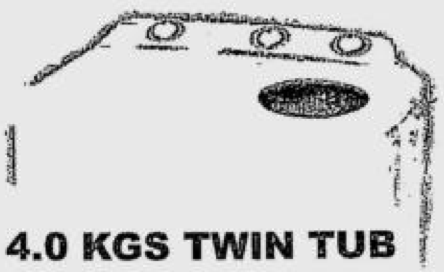

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

A close encounter with SARS

DR. REVELYN Cayabyab, 44, is the epidemiologist of the Department of Health in the Ilocos who was at the forefront of the fight against Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) that reared its ugly head in the obscure village of Vacante in Alcala, Pangasinan.

In this interview by the INQUIRER's Pangasinan correspondent Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Cayabyab recounted her "close encounter" with the SARS virus when she traced the medical history of SARS victims Adela Catalon (AC) and her father Mauricio Catalon (MC) and interviewed the people with whom the two had close contacts.

Cayabyab revealed how, as she allayed the fears of villagers, she herself battled her own fears of the mysterious disease. She also bared the rejection she suffered from other people, some of them her friends, when they learned that she was the doctor monitoring "the SARS village." Excerpts:

Was the Vacante experience your first risky assignment?

No, I had conducted risky investigations before. I climbed steep mountains with no trails and where I had to cling to trees to keep myself from falling into a ravine. But the difference was that I knew the diseases I was faced with then, like measles and cholera. In Vacante, I was faced with a new virus that we had little knowledge about.

Were you not afraid then to go near the members of the Catalon family?

There were reports of health workers in Hong Kong getting infected with SARS, so of course I had fears that I could get infected. But somehow, I was already prepared psychologically because prior to the death of [Adela], we [Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit or Resu] probed a health worker who took care of a SARS patient in Singapore. She came home on March 22 but she did not develop SARS (symptoms) for 14 days. She had returned to Singapore. A domestic helper from Hong Kong who went home to Ilocos Sur had fever and pneumonia, but it was not SARS. We have also been conducting information drives among rural health doctors and other medical personnel on SARS in Region 1.

When you learned about the death of AC from SARS, what immediate actions did you take?

The National Epidemiological Center notified us on the morning of April 14 about the suspected SARS case from Pangasinan, but did not say that AC was already dead. I started tracing her medical history. I learned later that she had died. Alcala Mayor [Juanito] Collado told me that tension was brewing in Vacante because the villagers had learned that AC had died of SARS. It was decided then that we would go to Vacante and conduct a barangay assembly on SARS. We went there late in the afternoon.

What happened during the assembly?

Dr. Nemesia Mejia [Pangasinan health officer] lectured on SARS, then [an open forum] followed. The villagers were apprehensive about the possibility of contracting the disease. We told them that the close contacts had the highest risks of being infected but we assured them that they would not necessarily die if they got infected. We told them that while they talked with AC, they could not have gotten infected. We asked them to protect themselves against the disease by eating the right kind of food, especially those rich in Vitamin C. The men even asked if they could still drink gin. Later, I assessed who were likely to get infected and ordered that the three households put on quarantine.

Did you return to the village after that?

I returned on Wednesday [April 16] and tried to convince the Catalon family to immediately bury AC's body. The family requested that since the body would arrive midnight, they would bury her body the following day. I said okay.

We learned that some family members were angry and even shouted invectives at you during the burial.

Yes, some relatives did not know of the arrangement. JC [AC's niece who was later quarantined at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine] was particularly mad. She did not want immediate burial. But anyway, things got smoother later and I got close to the family. They asked me to stop talking with reporters, so I stopped.

Did you go inside the houses of the close contacts? What did you do to protect yourself?

Just in the veranda. I wore an N95 mask but sometimes I took it off because it was too hot. I tried to observe the more than three feet prescribed distance. I took their temperatures because no other health worker wanted to do it at that time. The following day, I convinced a public health nurse to take their temperatures. Then the rural health midwives took turns in going to Vacante.

Where did you stay during those times? Were you not afraid that you could have been infected and was already a virus carrier?

I stayed at the regional health office in La Union for three days where I closely coordinated with the Catalon family and gave instructions to the rural health unit of Alcala through mobile phones. I also contacted AC's relatives in Canada. At that point, it was very important for me to establish her exposure to a known SARS case because of my exposure to her contacts. See? I was getting afraid, too. I told AC's nephew in Canada to be truthful because his answers would be the bases in instituting preventive measures in the village.

What did you find out from Adela's relatives in Canada?

That she lived in the eastern side of Toronto, in Scarborough [City], where there were SARS cases. I started to feel butterflies in my stomach! But I consoled myself that although she lived in that place, it did not mean she was infected. Another call to Canada revealed that AC had a roommate whose mother was infected with SARS. AC hugged the mother before going to the Philippines. The roommate and her father were also quarantined, with the father developing the illness. The hospital where the mother was confined did not give me any information.

When you learned that Adela was a possible SARS case, how did you feel?

When I was calling up Canada, I was hoping that AC did not have any contact with a SARS case. But the opposite was true. At that point, all I can think of was, "Oh, no, I can't do what I did, wearing no mask while talking with AC's family." I prayed hard, really hard. But then, except for MC who was inside the room, none of the family members had fever.

When did MC develop SARS symptoms?

On April 17, he had fever. The family wanted him taken to the National Kidney Institute or other private hospitals in Metro Manila, but I said [that] because of his exposure to Adela, he could only be taken either to the RITM or to San Lazaro [Hospital]. The following day, he was taken to the RITM. We decided to isolate the three zones on the night of April 21 and organized the municipal task force. We threshed out problems like food for the residents and police security. MC died on April 22.

Did you have yourself examined?

Yes, on April 23, I went to Manila and saw an infectious disease doctor and had myself evaluated. A chest X-ray was done and the findings were normal and I went back to Pangasinan.

So did you go home to your family already that time?

No, I went to another place to continue with my quarantine. But after two days, the place's owner asked me to leave. I left Saturday [April 26] morning, after explaining that I had no symptoms of SARS. I left an N95 mask and gloves for the person who would clean the room where I stayed, and gave instructions on how to disinfect the room. Then I called a doctor-friend if I could stay in the hospital where he worked to continue my quarantine. I got a flat no for an answer. So with no place to go, I went home, but had my two children (aged 6 and 3) stay with my mother.

Did you return to Vacante?

Yes, on Sunday [April 27] morning, to lift the quarantine on the three zones. There was no one who had developed fever, although the close contacts of MC were still at the RITM then. We were very happy because the virus, we hoped, had been contained.

What lessons did you learn from the Vacante experience?

The experience and the close encounter with SARS virus left me with a feeling of optimism that SARS after all, can be conquered. That we, health workers, must not be afraid of SARS. We just have to be prepared technically and psychologically.

AN ANTI-SARS checkpoint is set up in Barangay Vacante in Alcala, Pangasinan; (inset) Dr. Revelyn Cayabyab, epidemiologist of the Department of Health in the Ilocos. TOOTS SOBERANO/RAY ZAMBRANO

Vacante experience: A timeline

April 5. Adela Catalon [AC] arrives from Canada at 4 a.m., already feverish.
April 12. AC is taken to Villasis Polymedic Hospital where doctors recognize the symptoms she exhibited as SARS.
April 13. AC is transferred to the San Lazaro Hospital in Manila.
April 14. AC dies. Three households in Barangay Vacante are put in quarantine.
April 16. The Department of Health negotiates with AC's family for her immediate burial. Her body, inside a sealed coffin, is brought to Vacante at midnight.
April 17. AC is buried. Mauricio Catalon (MC), Adela's father, develops fever.
April 18. MC is taken to the research Institute for Tropical Medicine.
April 21. The DOH isolates three zones of Vacante.
April 22. MC dies.
April 25. The DOH confirms AC and MC died of SARS.
April 27. The DOH lifts isolation of three Vacante zones.
May 2. President Macapagal-Arroyo visits Vacante and declares the village SARS-free.

Make Camp John Hay green, visit its butterfly sanctuary

By Freda Veluz and Donna Demetillo
Baguio City

DID YOU know that butterflies are alcoholics? Grayden Dao-wan, caretaker at the newly opened Camp John Hay butterfly sanctuary in Baguio City, said butterflies love overripe fruits. They sip the fermented fruit juice, causing them to be "intoxicated."

FROM these pupae will come the butterflies that inhabit the sanctuary. TOOTS SOBERANO

So when one enters the sanctuary, built around John Hay's famous Little Mermaid Garden, it is not uncommon to see butterflies of various species perch upon fruit plates around the garden.

The sanctuary was conceptualized by Edmond Maceda, Fil-Estate Group's environmental specialist, and was opened to the public in early April. Green plastic mesh screens protect the butterflies, their eggs, the pupae and their host plants from predatory animals, like birds, lizards and frogs.

Eight species of butterflies are bred at the 500-square meter sanctuary, which is a refreshing addition to the attractions of John Hay.

Pebbled pathways lead visitors around the sanctuary, where bonsai and other plants provide refuge for the insects. Clinging on the mesh screens are real butterflies and several handcrafted, decorative ones.

A rectangular glass box covered with a screen houses different kinds of pupae hanging on nylon strings. Spiky brown pupae are hung next to gold-trimmed, lemon yellow pupae.

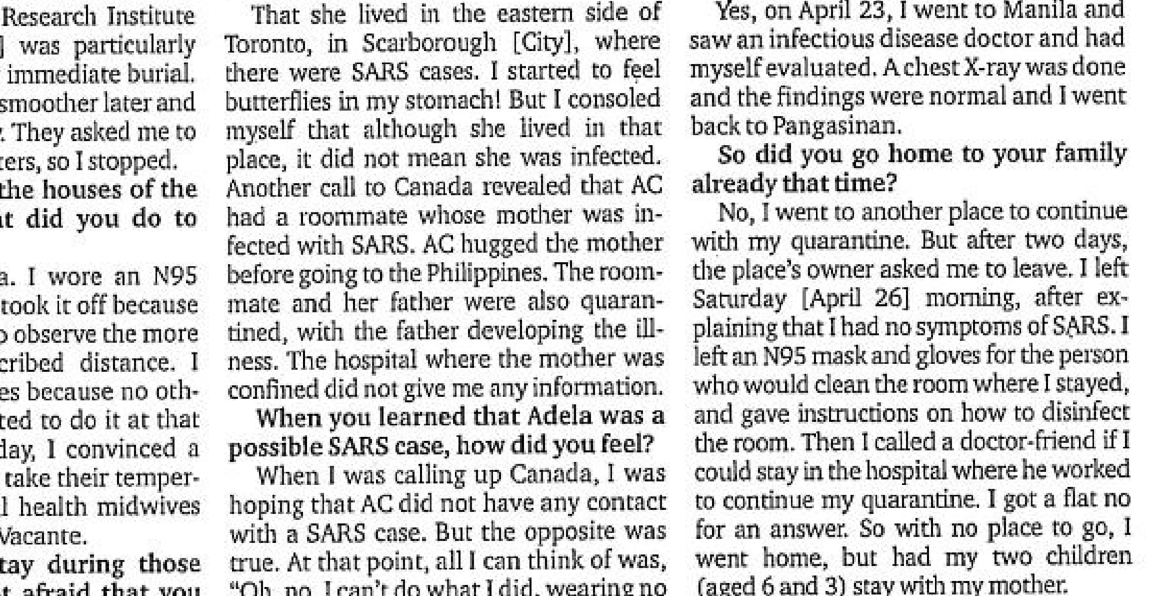
How these pupae get from the leaves to the nylon clothesline is no mystery. Once they are firm and hard, the sanctuary's caretakers transfer them to the glass box where batches of butterflies emerge.

Behind the sanctuary is a small shack where caretakers breed different butterfly species.

Camp officials said tourists and residents visiting the sanctuary would not only enjoy and learn but also help in rehabilitating John Hay's environment.

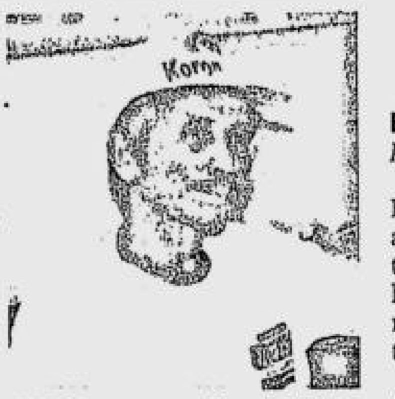
Revenues generated from the sanctuary will be used to improve John Hay's herbal garden and eco-trail. Managers of the sanctuary will also teach the basics of butterfly farming to students and various groups to generate interest in butterfly propagation.

Gillian Cortes, Camp John Hay Development Corp. assistant vice president for corporate communications, said that whatever the sanctuary earns goes to a bigger environmental cause.



EIGHT species of butterflies are propagated in this sanctuary amid the greens of Camp John Hay. TOOTS SOBERANO

'Don't make my husband a fall guy,' wife appeals to cops



ALEX Luntayan at Koronadal police station. EDWIN BACASMAS

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

KORONADAL CITY—The wife of a man held by police in connection with the May 10 explosion here appealed to police not to make him a fall guy "in your haste to solve the [bomb attack]."

"Injustice committed against the innocents will just aggravate the situation," Kalima Luntayan said of her husband Alex Luntayan, now in the custody of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) here.

Alex was arrested in the family home at around 6:30 a.m. Monday, by a group composed of members of the CIDG, Special Operations Group (SOG) of the Central Mindanao police and National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, Kalima said.

She said the raiders did not even bother to introduce themselves.

According to Kalima, the raiders handcuffed Alex after a search of their house yielded nothing.

Other members of the team reportedly searched 12 other houses owned by Muslim residents in Barangay General Paulino Santos, and a rifle grenade was supposedly recovered from the house of one Abe King.

The search warrant issued by Judge Oscar Dinopol of Regional Trial Court Branch 34 covered only the Luntayan house.

After the search, the raiders brought 13 male Muslims to the police headquarters for questioning. All except Alex Luntayan were later released.

Police had supposedly been told that the bombers stayed in the Luntayan house on the night before the bomb attack.

But Kalima, who sells vegetables at the public market, denied this.

Supt. Willie Dangane, Sarangani police director and chief of the Central Mindanao Police SOG, said in a report that two rifle grenades, a fragmentation grenade, a motorcycle and assorted bullets were seized from the Luntayan house.

But Kalima said they would be "crazy to buy a gun" with their meager income.

OIC embarrassed by MILF ...

From page A1

They said Malaysia could have wanted to withdraw its offer to host the peace talks because of the MILF offensives.

On Monday, North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol asked the President to allow a localized peace process with the MILF.

He said he presented a four-point proposal, which included the deployment of militiamen in North Cotabato to deter terror attacks, to the President in a closed-door meeting with local officials in Koronadal.

Piñol said Central Mindanao officials should be given leeway and elbow room to make peace initiatives with local MILF commanders, whom he, in turn, urged to cooperate "because the government is no longer talking to your leaders."

He said that once a peace deal was forged at the local level, funds intended for the development of war-torn communities would go directly to the local MILF leaders on the ground.

Piñol said his proposal had been accepted for consideration.

He added: "I appeal to our lawmakers to use their countryside development fund to develop conflict areas in Mindanao. This will help solve the peace and order problem in several communities."

Barred from meeting

Sultan Kudarat Gov. Pakung Mangudadatu, the lone Muslim governor and concurrent chair of the Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) in Central Mindanao, said he was barred from joining the closed-door meeting.

"Maybe they don't trust me because I am a Muslim," the governor said. "But I am not biased. I wanted to attend the briefing because I want to help solve the problem [on terrorism]."

Mangudadatu, who was elected president of the Muslim National Leaders Association on April 24 during its meeting in Manila, told the INQUIRER that he had sought permission to enter from the members of the Presidential Security Group guarding the entrance of the South Cotabato gymnasium. But he was told that his name was not on the list of 12 Central Mindanao officials who were to meet with the President.

"I told them that I am the governor of Sultan Kudarat and chair of the [RPOC] of Region 12. But my request fell on deaf ears," he said.

Ms Macapagal arrived in Koronadal at past 3 p.m. Monday and went directly to the gymnasium.

A ranking police official in the region tried to convince the PSG members to allow the governor to join the briefing, to no avail.

Mangudadatu said his liaison officer also sought help from the office of South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes but that nothing happened.

He said it was Fuentes who had requested him to attend the meeting.

Mangudadatu, who was recently named member of the government peace panel, took the Presidential Management Staff and the host province to task for the incident.

"I felt embarrassed, and I pity my people," he said. "I was there to represent the constituents of Sultan Kudarat. If they can do this to a Muslim governor, how much more to ordinary Muslims?"

Use caution

The governor warned Koronadal officials to address the bomb attacks with caution.

"Several houses of Muslims in Koronadal were arbitrarily searched by police in an effort to solve the [May 10] bombing [of the public market] quickly," he noted. "Some of these Muslims are now missing. We government leaders must not be impulsive and avoid complicating the problem."

Mangudadatu said the solution to the bomb attacks in various parts of Mindanao was the resumption of peace talks, not military action.

"I have seen enough of these senseless killings," he said. "I have been a living witness to more than three decades of fighting, and I don't want to see another 34 years of fighting."

Piñol said he was calling for the support of civilians because everyone should take part in the fight against terrorists and enemies of the state.

He said he was proposing the activation of 10 militia units in towns considered "high-risk areas," such as those at the borders of Cotabato and Maguindanao.

"These municipalities will have the capability to defend themselves from harassment and terror activities," he said.

He also urged the President "to use an iron fist in dealing with the [MILF], who openly violates Philippine laws."

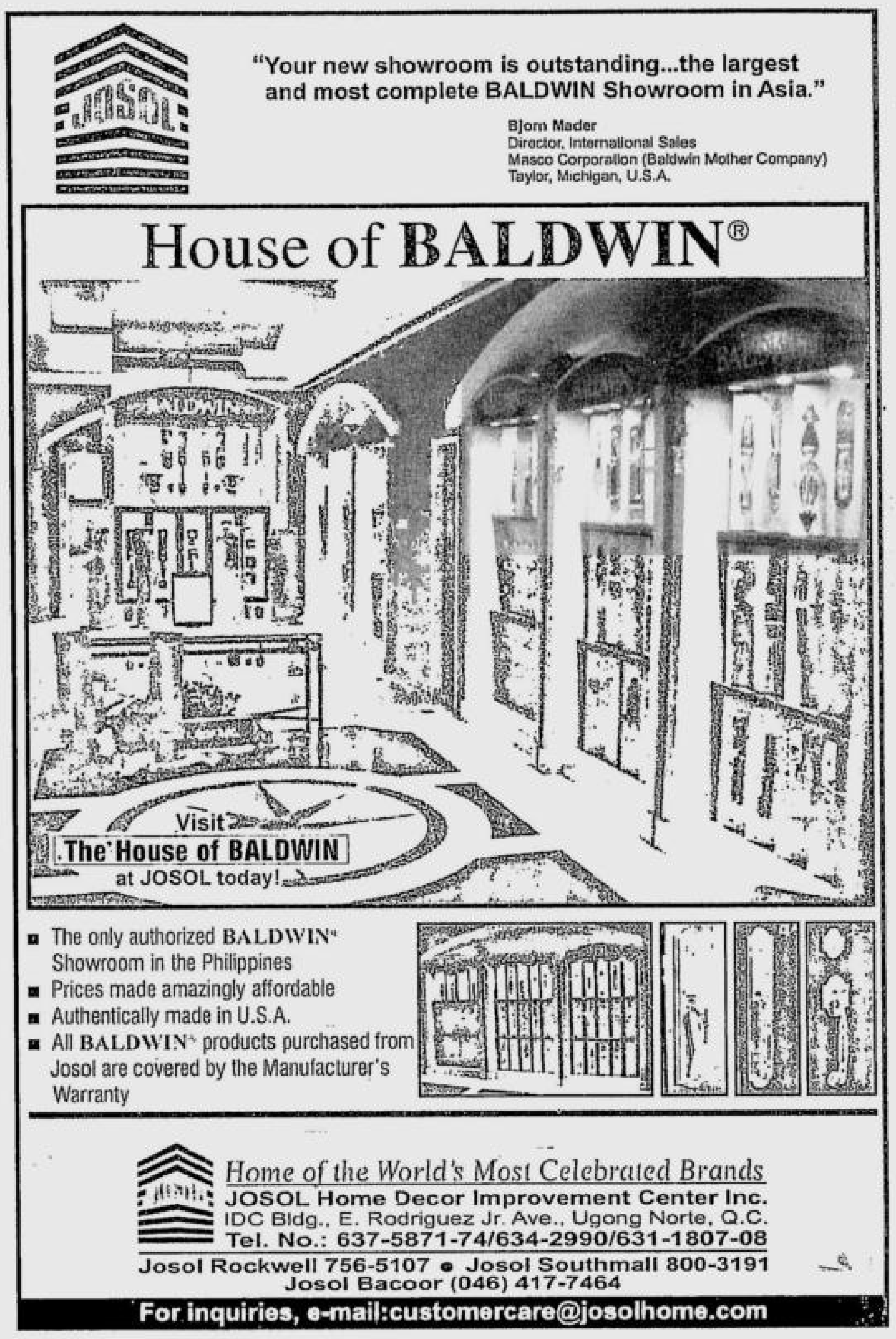
When asked to comment, MILF vice chair for political affairs Ghazali Jaafar said the proposed formation of militia units would only worsen the situation. "As in the past, these militiamen will be used by politicians and military to harass Muslim communities," he said.

No endorsement

Jaafar also denied that the MILF had endorsed anyone as replacement of resigned chief government negotiator Jesus Dureza.

"We are not endorsing anyone because it is not proper for the MILF [to do so]," he told the INQUIRER.

Earlier, Jaafar was quoted as saying that the MILF was endorsing Robert Aventajado, former presidential assistant for flagship projects in Mindanao, or Ruben Torres, a former executive secretary. *Nash B. Maulana, Aquiles Z. Zonio and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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GMA sets June 1 deadline ...

From page A1

Jemaah Islamiyah active in Southeast Asia, and al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden.

- Make a "categorical stand" on its position regarding the suspended peace negotiations with the government.

The President said that while the MILF had two weeks to comply with these conditions, it would continue to face the full might of the military and police.

"Punitive actions will continue and peace talks remain suspended," she said in a speech marking the death centenary of national hero Apolinario Mabini at the Mabini Shrine in Malacañang Park.

"The government is nearing a decision point on whether to declare the MILF a terrorist organization, and to take the necessary operational and diplomatic measures to strengthen the prospective policy," she said.

The President also said the government was "holding this decision in abeyance ... until after the forthcoming OIC conference of foreign ministers to be held toward the end of this month."

She was referring to the Organization of Islamic Conference, whose Committee of the Eight has been helping the Philippine government resolve the so-called Mindanao problem. (*See related story on Page A1*)

Domestic issue

Malaysian Ambassador Mohamed Taufik, a member of the Committee of the Eight, said during the centenary commemoration that his government would respect the Philippine government's decision on whether the MILF should be declared a terrorist group.

"The MILF is not a Malaysian organization, [and] neither is it an OIC organization," he said. "And I do not think we have much to say in what is essentially a Filipino domestic issue."

The ambassador also called on the MILF to consider its future actions, noting that the rebels had admitted responsibility for, among others, the May 4 attack in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, that left 22 people dead.

"Any action against civilians is clearly an act of terrorism," he said.

In a separate interview, US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone said "it's not a question of giving them [the MILF] time."

"It's a question of them coming to the right conclusion and acting in accordance with that conclusion," he said.

Ricciardone had previously announced that the US government might declare the MILF a foreign terrorist organization.

Bunye told reporters that before the Cocis meeting started at about 5:30 p.m. Monday, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople and Eduardo Ermita, the President's adviser on the peace process, met with OIC ambassadors regarding the recent developments in Mindanao.

At that meeting, Ople supposedly expressed his personal opinion that the MILF should be given 60 days to prove its sincerity, or the peace talks would be deemed "sabotaged."

Bunye said that during the Cocis meeting, in which the President took part by teleconference from Mindanao, it was agreed that 60 days or two weeks was "too long an observation period."

"There's the probability of foreclosing the peace talks," he said when asked whether tagging the MILF as a terrorist group would mean an end to the peace talks.

Bunye also said the government did not deem "really critical" the appointment of a new chief negotiator with the MILF following the resignation of Jesus Dureza.

He reiterated the President's appeal to the media not to give print space and air time to "terrorist" statements, particularly coming from the MILF.

"We hope this appeal is heeded by responsible members of the media," he said.

'Anti-terrorism mode'

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said that "unless we are a nation in an anti-terrorism mode, we will have difficulty fighting [the terrorist] threat."

Reyes added his voice to the defense of the military in connection with the attack on Siocon.

Echoing military officials, he said that intelligence was "everybody's business," and that the Armed Forces should not be blamed every time a bomb exploded or rebels attacked a town.

"I was told that in the terrorist attack in Siocon, some of the raiders were from Siocon," Reyes said. "The people themselves must have known, and nobody reported [it] in advance. The most effective intelligence network is the people themselves."

Asked if nobody should be held liable for the failure of intelligence, Reyes said this was not the case.

"What I'm saying is that every time there is a terrorist incident, we cannot say failure of intelligence and [the AFP is] responsible," he said. "We accept part of the problem [and] part of the blame. But we must recognize that we should all be in this game."

Military officials the other day said the AFP should not be blamed for the May 10 bomb attack in Koronadal, South Cotabato. They said the attack succeeded because the people had failed to warn authorities about it.

The military has been caught with its pants down several times this year. The MILF intensified its attacks shortly after government forces launched an offensive and captured the Buliok complex in February. *With a report from Martin P. Marfil*

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Terror strike in Saudi kills 90, including 2 Pinoys

From page A1

It was the first major attack on US and Western interests since the US-led war on Iraq, which critics had warned could fan hatred of America across the Middle East.

The massive bomb attacks in the land sacred to Islam came just two weeks after Washington announced it was pulling out troops from the kingdom following the defeat of Saddam Hussein in neighboring Iraq.

Powell, who is on a postwar tour of the Middle East, told reporters shortly after arriving at Riyadh airport from Jordan, that "many other nationalities were also killed."

In Manila, officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Labor and Employment said two overseas Filipino workers—Rogelio Pababero and Getulio Templo—were among the fatalities. Pababero reportedly worked for a vinyl company while Templo was an electronic and communications expert. Philippine officials said as many as 16 Filipinos were injured.

"The Philippines condemns in the strongest terms the dastardly bombing in Riyadh," Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said. But he expressed confidence that Saudi authorities would "track down the terrorists and ensure the safety of 900,000 Filipinos there."

Saudi officials said cars packed with explosives charged past armed guards at three compounds shortly before Monday midnight.

Apparently timed to greet Powell's arrival, the bombs left a scene of rubble and mangled vehicles. A public clock stopped at 11:28 following the explosions. Homes where foreigners had been asleep also collapsed.

"We will commit ourselves again to redouble our efforts to work closely with our Saudi friends and friends all around the world to go after al-Qaida, to go after terrorism," Powell said. He was later briefed on the attacks at the US Embassy and canceled a meeting with Saudi businessmen to focus on it.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the Riyadh attacks, although there had been warnings of new attacks on Westerners in the kingdom.

Al-Qaida, which has demanded that non-Muslim American troops leave Saudi soil, is known for suicide bombings and coordinated attacks such as the simultaneous car bombings outside American embassies in Kenya and neighboring Tanzania in 1998 that killed some 230 people.

In the Sept. 11 attacks, 19 Arab men—15 of them Saudis—simultaneously hijacked four planes, slamming two of them into New York's twin World Trade Center, a third into the Pentagon in Washington and a fourth into a field in Pennsylvania.

On Monday night, cars packed with explosives were driven into three compounds housing Westerners, according to Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef who described the attacks as suicide bombings.

He linked the blasts to a fugitive group of 19 suspected al-Qaida sympathizers, mainly Saudis, who disappeared in Riyadh on May 6. The interior ministry said police had also found a huge cache of explosives, hand grenades, ammunition and machine guns.

A Saudi security source confirmed there had only been three explosions. There had been reports of at least four bombs.

Witnesses heard three blasts which sent fire balls into the night sky above the Gharnata, Ishbiliya and Cordoba compounds.

Cars and pickup trucks, badly twisted and still smoldering, littered the complexes of villas and four-story blocks. Many balconies were blown off, leaving steel girders jutting out. The bombs gouged massive holes in walls and brought down roofs.

A clock in a large hall inside one building stopped at 11:28, the time on Monday night when most witnesses said they had heard the apparently simultaneous explosions.

"We were sleeping when we were woken up by the sound of gunfire," Nick, a European resident, told the Arab News newspaper. "Moments later, a loud explosion was heard followed by another bigger explosion."

An Australian woman identified as Helen told CNN that trucks had rammed into gates at her walled and heavily guarded compound and exploded after an exchange of gunfire, shaking her sturdy villa like a cardboard box.

Suspected Islamic militants have twice launched major attacks on US military bases in Saudi Arabia since the 1991 Gulf War. Americans and other foreigners also have been killed in several smaller incidents in the kingdom over the same period.

About 30,000 American expatriates work in Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, many in the oil industry, but also in services such as finance and healthcare. There are also about 30,000 British residents among a large Western community.

On May 1, the United States renewed a warning for citizens to avoid travel to Saudi Arabia. One official said intelligence agencies had credible information about a possible al-Qaida plot to strike American targets there. On the same day, a gunman wounded a US civilian at a naval base in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia has charged 90 Saudis with belonging to al-Qaida and is interrogating another 250. *Reports by AFP, AP, Reuters, Norman Bordadora and Blanche Rivera*

Fortified compounds fail to protect expats

RIYADH—Armed guards and high walls around fortified compounds gave scant protection to expatriates living in the Saudi capital Riyadh when suicide bombers shot their way into three complexes to set off huge car bombs.

By residents' accounts, the attackers appeared to have driven through the gates of the three housing compounds, guns blazing and charged past armed guards in a hail of automatic fire before detonating massive charges aboard their vehicles.

Police and soldiers milled about mangled cars and destroyed buildings, collecting evidence from mounds of debris and surveying the extensive damage.

"I woke up from a big bang and I found my husband lying on the floor beside me. The windows were all gone," one unidentified South African woman told Al Arabiya television.

Her husband spoke to the channel as a stream of blood trickled down his leg: "What can I tell you? Lots happened, and it happened so quickly ... Basically everything's destroyed." Charred vehicles, their frames twisted and still smoldering, littered the compounds, made up of villas and four-story apartment blocks.

Rubble, tires and the shattered limbs of trees filled a swimming pool at one compound while the collapsed concrete and metal gate of another hung limply above the remains of a car.

A US official said one of the compounds housed employees of Vinnell Corp., a US defense contractor which trains the Saudi National Guard. The others—al-Hamra and al-Jadwal complexes—housed Saudis and Arab, American and other foreigners. *Reuters*

FAST FACTS

OFFICIAL Name: (The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

Size: 2,250,000 square kilometers, about four-fifths of the Arabian Peninsula.

Physical features: Mountains, plateaus and mostly sandy deserts

People: The principal ethnic majority are the Arabs. Estimated population (July 2002): 23.5 million, including 5.4 million who are mostly foreign workers in the oil and service sectors. Saudi nationals, 77.2 percent, non-Saudi, 22.8 percent, which includes 950,000 Filipino workers.

Language: Arabic but English is mostly understood

Religion: Islam. Islam's holy cities, Mecca and Medina, are in Saudi Arabia.

Capital: Riyadh (population in 2000: 4.7 million). The name Riyadh is derived from the Arabic word meaning a place of gardens and trees ("rawdah"). Riyadh has been since antiquity a fertile area in the heartland of the Arabian peninsula.

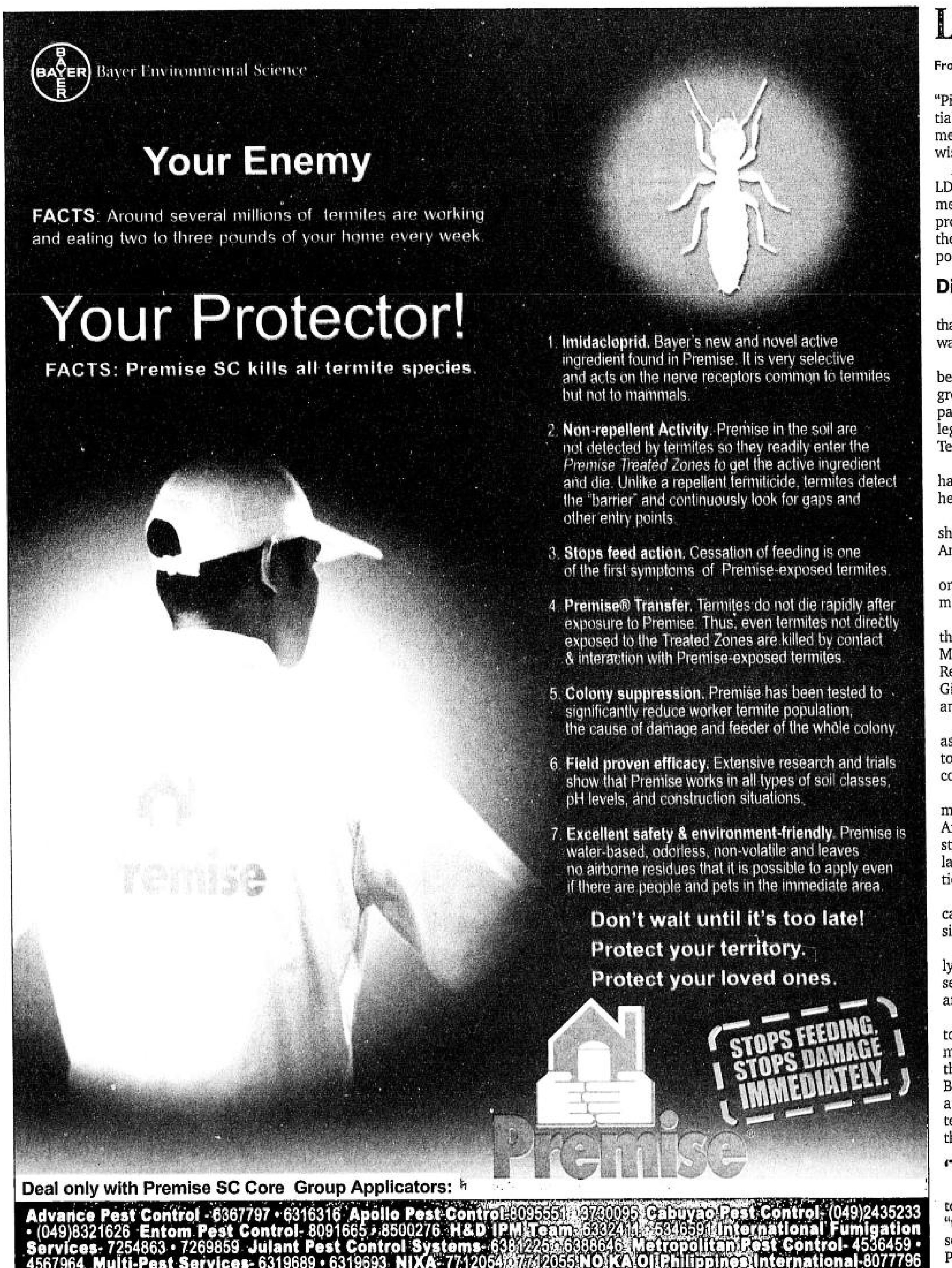
System of government: Monarchy. According to its basic laws, the dynasty right shall be confined to the sons of the founder, King Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Rahman Al Saud (Ibn Saud), and the sons of sons. Modern Saudi was founded in 1932.

Head of state and prime minister: King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. The king is both the chief of state and head of government

Elections: None.

Economy: An oil-based economy with strong government controls over major economic activities. Saudi Arabia has the largest reserves of petroleum in the world (26 percent of the proved reserves). It is the largest exporter of petroleum and plays a leading role in Opec. The petroleum sector accounts for roughly 75 percent of budget revenues, 45 percent of GDP, and 90 percent of export earnings. Estimated 2001 gross national product: $241 billion

PDI Research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LDP headed for split . . .

From page A1

"Ping" Lacson as their presidential bet. The pro-Lacson congressmen reportedly went against the wishes of Angara.

Angara said the event was not LDP-sponsored. LDP congressmen who attended the Lacson proclamation said they did so in their personal capacities to support a fellow LDP member.

Dismiss talk of rift

Yesterday, Angara dismissed talks that the LDP is divided and that he was being ousted as party president.

Angara's statement came a day before LDP senators and congressmen are to meet and discuss party matters, including the alleged rift, at the residence of Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta.

But at press time, the meeting has been canceled as Angara said he was leaving for Chicago.

Lacson said the meeting should have taken last week. But Angara was also unavailable.

Angara said that he knew that only three to four LDP congressmen were behind such talk.

LDP members identified with the Lacson proponents are House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla, Representatives Rolex Suplico, Gilbert Remulla, Abraham Mitra and Agapito Aquino.

Padilla earlier said Angara had asked the LDP in a recent meeting to endorse Cojuangco but LDP congressmen did not agree.

"They are raising this noise and making this kind of allegation," Angara told reporters as he stressed that this was the first and last time he would answer questions about the LDP rift.

The senator said this was because he felt the issue was an "insignificant one."

The LDP, he stressed, is not only made up of congressmen, but senators, provincial governors and mayors.

When reporters asked Angara to name the maverick congressmen, Angara declined but said that probably Makati City Rep. Butz Aquino, who was in the Senate yesterday attending the Charter change hearing, knew who they were.

'Terrorists' in LDP

Aquino, LDP secretary general, told reporters that if there were "terrorists in the LDP, it was himself and Minority Leader Carlos Padilla.

Lacson said that he was the one who sought to have the meeting among LDP senators and congressmen to iron out differences.

Lacson acknowledged that some LDP congressmen had told him about their gripes against Angara.

The congressmen told Lacson that Angara failed to consult with members on certain issues within the party. These included Angara's support for the government of unity proposed by the Macapagal administration, his open support for Cojuangco and his position on the Charter change issue. Angara has filed a resolution in support of the House initiative to amend the Constitution via a constituent assembly.

Last week, LDP Sen. Vicente Sotto revealed that there were plans by LDP members in the local level to file a complaint against two LDP congressmen, whom he did not name, for committing acts inimical to the party.

Sotto noted that the congressmen in question were critical of the party leadership.

But yesterday Aquino said that he has not yet received any complaint filed against anyone from the LDP.

Danding over Ping

Negros Occidental Rep. Jacinto Paras, leader of the pro-Cojuangco group in Lakas, said Angara himself could not attend the Cojuangco dinner but told him that he would ask his members to join.

"I would say this is an indication that the LDP is more inclined to support Danding than Ping," Paras said in a phone interview.

Representatives Joaquin Chipeco Jr. (Laguna) and Rep. Celso Lobregat (Davao City) were among the LDP members who attended the dinner held at the Manila Golf and Country Club.

The ruling party Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats hosted the Cojuangco dinner. Significantly, from an initial 50 Lakas members who endorsed the Cojuangco candidacy, there were 65 Lakas members at the dinner, according to Paras.

Cojuangco had hosted the first dinner when the Lakas members were persuading the chair emeritus of the Nationalist People's Coalition to run for the presidency.

Fifty Lakas congressmen earlier signed a petition asking Cojuangco to be "our standard-bearer."

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., President Macapagal-Arroyo's co-chair in Lakas, also attended the dinner but did not deliver a speech as he did at the first dinner where Paras quoted him as having endorsed Cojuangco as the Lakas candidate.

"All the indications (of Cojuangco running) are there," Paras claimed. "What is only lacking is the categorical statement but maybe that is part of his political strategy."

Consumer groups unhappy with refund plan

From page A1

4 percent of the firm's total sales.

Renato Reyes Jr., spokesperson of the People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (Power), said that while his group welcomed the ERC decision as it was a victory for the public "we continue to demand full, unconditional and immediate refund to all residential customers."

He called the proposal for Meralco to refund the rest of its customers over a period of nine years "patently ridiculous and unjust."

"When Meralco wants us to pay our bills and we can't, Meralco does not hesitate to disconnect our electricity. Now Meralco is asking us for an unreasonable period of nine years before we receive the full amount of the refund? That is totally unacceptable and unfair," Reyes said.

The Freedom from Debt Coalition said the ERC did not consider the inputs of FDC and other consumer groups when the regulatory body adopted the Meralco proposal. The FDC had proposed the conversion of the overcharges into shares of stock.

"The ERC cannot dismiss the more than 50,000 consumers, who are FDC's co-proponents, to have the refund converted into shares. Most of these consumers come from households consuming at least 100 kWh. This number continues to grow," FDC president Ana Marie Nemenzo said in a statement.

In a five-page order, the ERC said it approved Meralco's proposal to implement Phase 1 of the refund scheme after having found it "reasonable and in the public interest."

The ERC also required Meralco to do the following:

- Start paying the amount due each (qualified) customer in cash not later than June 6;
- Develop a procedure for advising present and former customers about the refund and the method of availing themselves of the scheme, including a massive information campaign to notify and educate customers of the process; and
- Develop a procedure to accommodate customers whom the utility has no way of contacting, or those who pay for bill's not under their own names.

Receipt and ID

ERC chair Manuel Sanchez said the agency had ensured that the refund be simple and easy to avail of. "We made it clear with Meralco that the customer should be able to go to (a payment center) and say 'here's my receipt, here is my ID, let me have the money,'" he said.

Sanchez said qualified customers could use the refund to pay their June bill and take the remainder in cash. "After this, we should start talks on the second phase of the refund," he said.

But the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms (Nasecore) said the amounts that Meralco wanted to return to small customers were not accurate.

"After overcharging the consumers for more than nine years, they now want to shortchange us," Nasecore president Pete Ilagan said.

He said a consumer using 51 kWh should be entitled to P953.904 (P0.167 x 51kWh x 112 months—from Jan. 1994 to May 2003) instead of P866 as computed by Meralco; P1,140.94 for those using 61 kWh as against Meralco's computation of P1,020.

For those using 71 kWh, they should receive P1,327.98 instead of P1,176.00; P1,515.02 for those using 81 kWh instead of P1,331; and P1,702.06 for those using 91 kWh instead of P1,487.

Ilagan said the ERC decision was more favorable to Meralco than to the consumers.

"What the ERC should have done was to first set guidelines and provisions for penalties if Meralco does not comply before it (ERC) even accepted Meralco's proposal," he said.

He said the guidelines should have been the basis for the proposal of Meralco. Allowing the refund before the mechanism is set up will create more problems than solutions, according to Ilagan.

At Meralco's mercy

He said the ERC should have first compelled Meralco to have ready answers on questions about the real customers and about the tenant-landlord situation so that the consumers would not be confused.

"After winning the refund case, the consumers are again at the mercy of Meralco. What guarantee will the customers have that this utility firm will honestly implement the refund?" he said.

Dr. Giovanni Tapang, a Power convenor, placed the total refund for residential customers at at least P10.5 billion.

Of the electricity Meralco sold from 1994 to 2001, 34.76 percent went to residential customers, 33.61 percent to commercial customers, 30.96 percent to industrial customers and the remainder to streetlights.

Meralco data show that of its 3.93 million customers, 91 percent (3.57 million) are residential, 8.7 percent (342,000) are commercial and 0.29 percent (11,600) are industrial.

With a report from Gerald G. Lacuarta

ERC decision described as 'lutong macaw'

"LUTONG macaw" was how the Freedom from Debt Coalition described the decision of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to adopt Meralco's proposal to refund those consuming up to 100 kWh a month with outright cash in June.

Ana Marie Nemenzo, FDC president, said the "public consultation" on May 9 proved to be a mere formality that gave the ERC decision a sense of legitimacy.

"FDC received information that in a Cabinet meeting days before the 'consultation,' the President declared her preference to refund those consuming 100 kWh and less with outright cash," Nemenzo said.

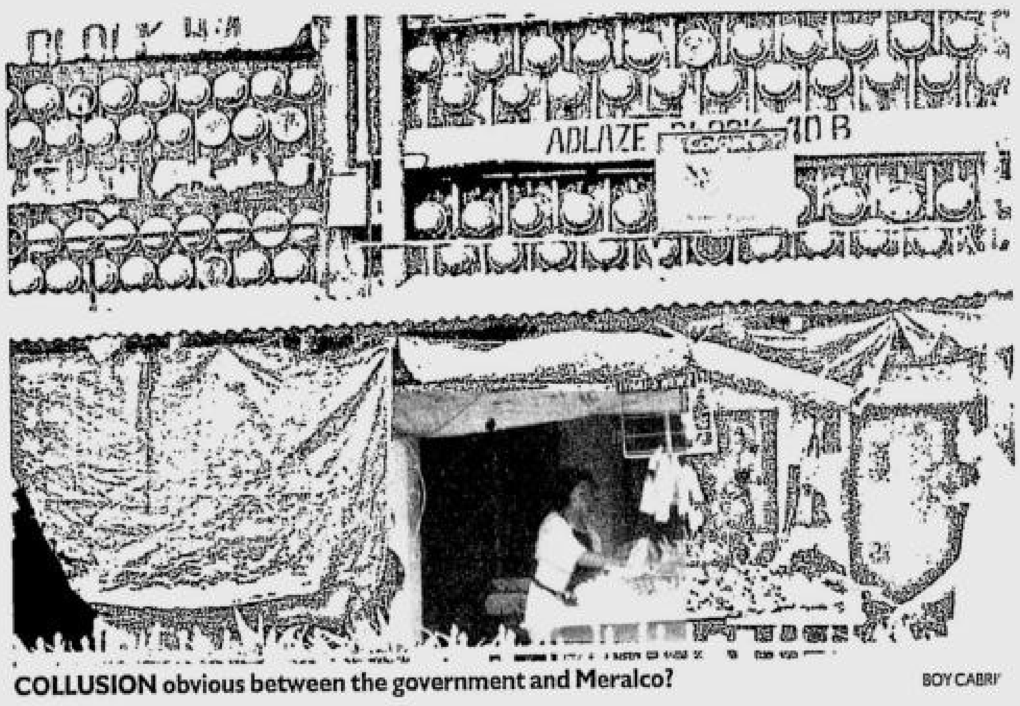
A day before the "public consultation," the ERC and Meralco held a meeting to discuss the mode of refund.

On May 12, the ERC announced it would adopt the Meralco refund proposal.

"The collusion among Malacañang, the ERC and Meralco is obvious. The ERC decision has been determined by private interests, not by the public good," Nemenzo said.

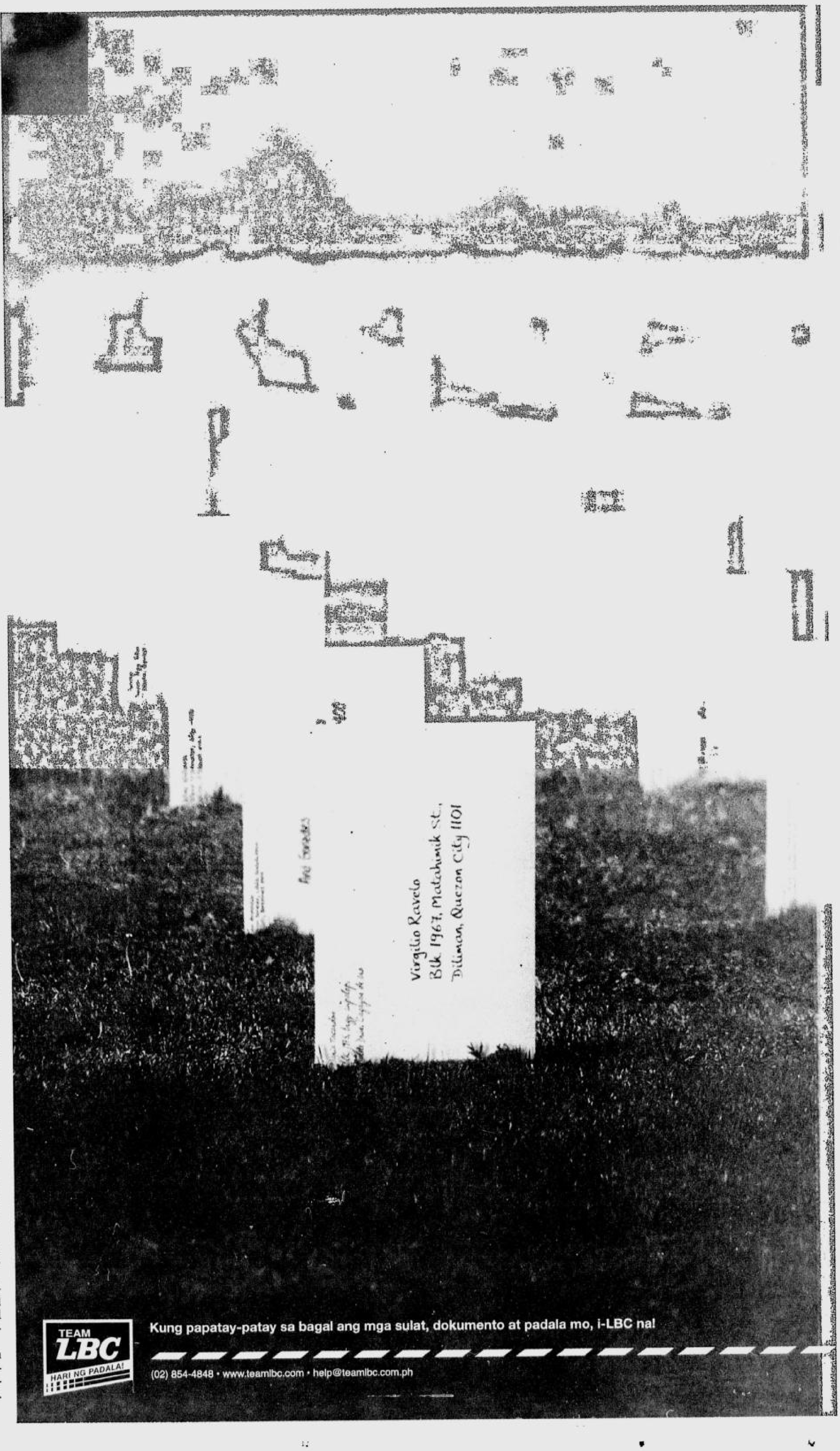
An outright cash refund presents an immediate relief for consumers, but does not empower consumers to take part in Meralco's policy-making process," according to the FDC.

"The ERC decision does little to answer consumers' demand for justice against oppressive electricity rates and inefficient Meralco management," the group said in a statement. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*



COLLUSION obvious between the government and Meralco?

BOY CABRI



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Manila barangay chair tagged in 2001 killing

By Alcuin Papa

THE POLICE have wound up the two-year investigation of the killing of the son of a Manila prosecutor when they arrested the suspected mastermind and her two accomplices.

Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco, National Capital Region Police Office chief, yesterday identified the suspects as Ligaya Santos, a Manila barangay chairperson, Christopher Castillo and Girlie Castillo.

Branch 12 of the Manila Metropolitan Trial Court issued the arrest warrants for the suspects.

The three were collared on May 9 while they were attending a trial for another case at the Manila City Hall complex.

The three are wanted for the ambush of Francis Orda, son of former Manila prosecutor Domingo Orda, last April 2, 2001 at the corner of Saudi Arabia and Somalia streets, Barangay Don Bosco, Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque City.

Orda told the INQUIRER shortly after his son was killed, that he or his wife might have been the real target of the gunmen.

Orda said that at the time of the ambush, Francis was using the car that his father usually drove.

Parañaque police managed to arrest two other shooters a week after the ambush. They were identified as Rolly Tonion and Jhunrey Soriano, both operators of an illegal FX taxi terminal at the Liwasang Bonifacio in Lawton, Manila.

However, the two were not able to provide police any information on the mastermind.

Police got a break in the case when unidentified witnesses came up with information linking Santos and the Castillos to the killing of Francis.

It was also revealed that Santos had been involved in a fight with the victim's mother over the ownership of a business site.

The Parañaque City police also established a link between Santos and the arrested gunmen. Police learned that Santos resided near Liwasang Bonifacio where the hired guns allegedly stayed.

The suspects were turned over to the custody of the Parañaque police and are now detained at the city jail.

NBI itching to arrest Rodriguez

By Philip Tubeza

THEIR patience now wearing thin, National Bureau of Investigation officials are itching to arrest former Quezon Governor Eduardo Rodriguez and his wife Imelda after the couple again failed to surrender yesterday.

"They should be arrested," said an exasperated Ricardo Diaz, NBI-Interpol unit chief. "They really like to stall."

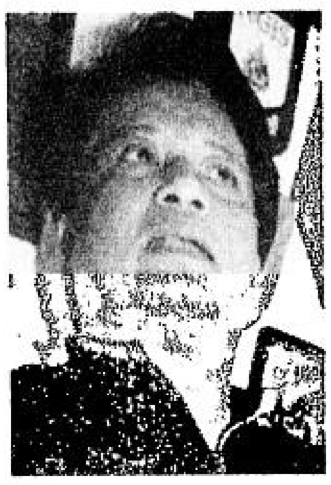
It was the second time Rodriguez and his wife failed to turn themselves in to the NBI.

Yesterday, Rodriguez again told NBI officials that he and his wife will surrender on Friday.

"If they don't show up by Friday, they would be arrested," Diaz said yesterday.

Diaz said Rodriguez and his wife did not show up yesterday because Imelda was allegedly still stick. That was the same reason the couple gave when they failed to surrender on Saturday.

Rodriguez is wanted for alleged insurance fraud committed in the United States in 1985. The couple have reportedly agreed to be extradited to the US.



RODRIGUEZ

METROBRIEFS

2 cops accused of shooting pa and son

SPO1 IMELDA Salva and PO2 Marcelino Sales, both assigned to Camp Crame, have been accused of shooting a father and his son yesterday morning in Quezon City. Pablo Sarmiento Sr., 49, and his son Pablo Jr., 22, told police that the suspects, along with cohorts Boy and Long Pamintuan, got down from an owner-type jeep in front of the victims' house in Sta. Lucia, Novaliches, Quezon City, and opened fire at around 1:30 a.m. According to SPO1 Fedencio Basibas, the victims were hit in different parts of the body and were taken to the FEU Hospital. The suspects are still at large. Police have yet to find out the motive for the shooting.

Alcuin Papa

Vendor sporting fake badge busted

OMBUDSMAN PALA HA?

WHEN patrolling policemen tried to frisk Ariel Samuel yesterday at around 1 a.m. on Quirino Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City, the suspect produced a badge and identified himself as a clerk of the Office of the Ombudsman, said Senior Insp. Rodolfo Aguilar of the Novaliches Police. But police were suspicious and, at close inspection, they found the badge was a fake. Samuel, 24, a vendor and resident of Barangay Maybiga, Caloocan City, also had shabu in his possession. Police promptly hauled him to jail.

Alcuin Papa

Girl drowns in Caloocan creek

ROSIE Saliling, 13, and her cousin, Julie Anne Martinez, were playing near the side of the creek at the boundary of Navotas and Caloocan City when they both slipped and fell into the murky water at around 2:15 p.m. on Monday. Residents raced to help the victims as they struggled to stay afloat. Martinez was quickly rescued. But Saliling, an incoming first year high school student and resident of Dagat-dagatan, Caloocan City, went underwater. She died while undergoing treatment at the Tondo General Hospital, said PO2 Joel Montebon.

Tina Santos

Driver nearly lynched by Tondo mob

TRUCK driver Alejandro Capuyan, 32, was nearly lynched in Tondo, Manila after his truck ran over a 38-year-old scavenger and her 15-year-old son. The mother survived but her son did not, police said. Insp. Manuel Cenon of the Western Police District said Capuyan was driving an International Tractor Trailer toward Delpan from Navotas when he ran over Susan Gilleno, 38, and her son Jimboy, 15, at the R-10 bridge at around 1 p.m. on Monday. "The suspect stopped (the truck) and tried to help, but a crowd gathered quickly," Cenon said. "When he got out (of the truck), they beat him up." Later the crowd was pacified and took Capuyan and the elder Gilleno to the hospital.

Philip Tubeza

CIDG seizes P15M in hot cell phones

MAHILIG KA SA BARCODES? BEHIND BARS KA NGAYON!

MEMBERS of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group on Saturday seized some P15 million worth of cellular phones and gadgets during a raid on a Mandaluyong City store which was found to be illegally producing fake Nokia barcodes. The men found nine units of desktop computer and one laptop computer, which were used in the illegal manufacture of barcodes at the Partial N Things store at the City Land Shaw Tower. Barcodes are requirements for registration with local service providers, according to CIDG chief Director Eduardo Matillano. The owner of store, Carlo Reyes, has been charged with violation of the intellectual property rights.

TJ Burgonio

Man kills unborn son

FELIX Rayandayan caused the abortion of his unborn child when he punched his pregnant wife in Quezon City on Monday. Police said Rayandayan, 31, a suspected drug addict, was having an argument with his wife Remedios, 33, when he punched her inside their house in Balintawak, Quezon City, at around 9:30 p.m. After a few minutes, he saw that the woman had lost the baby. The suspect then took the fetus and wrapped it in newspaper. He tried to bury it outside their house but was caught by police.

Alcuin Papa

Rotary meet in Pasay City

THE ROTARY Club of Pasay will hold its 44th charter anniversary ball on May 16 at the Sampaguita Ballroom, Hyatt Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The affair will be highlighted with the induction into office of incoming officers and board members led by lawyer Carlo Ocampo, president-elect. Expected to attend are incoming District 3810 Governor Alex Huang and past district governor Rudy Estrellado.

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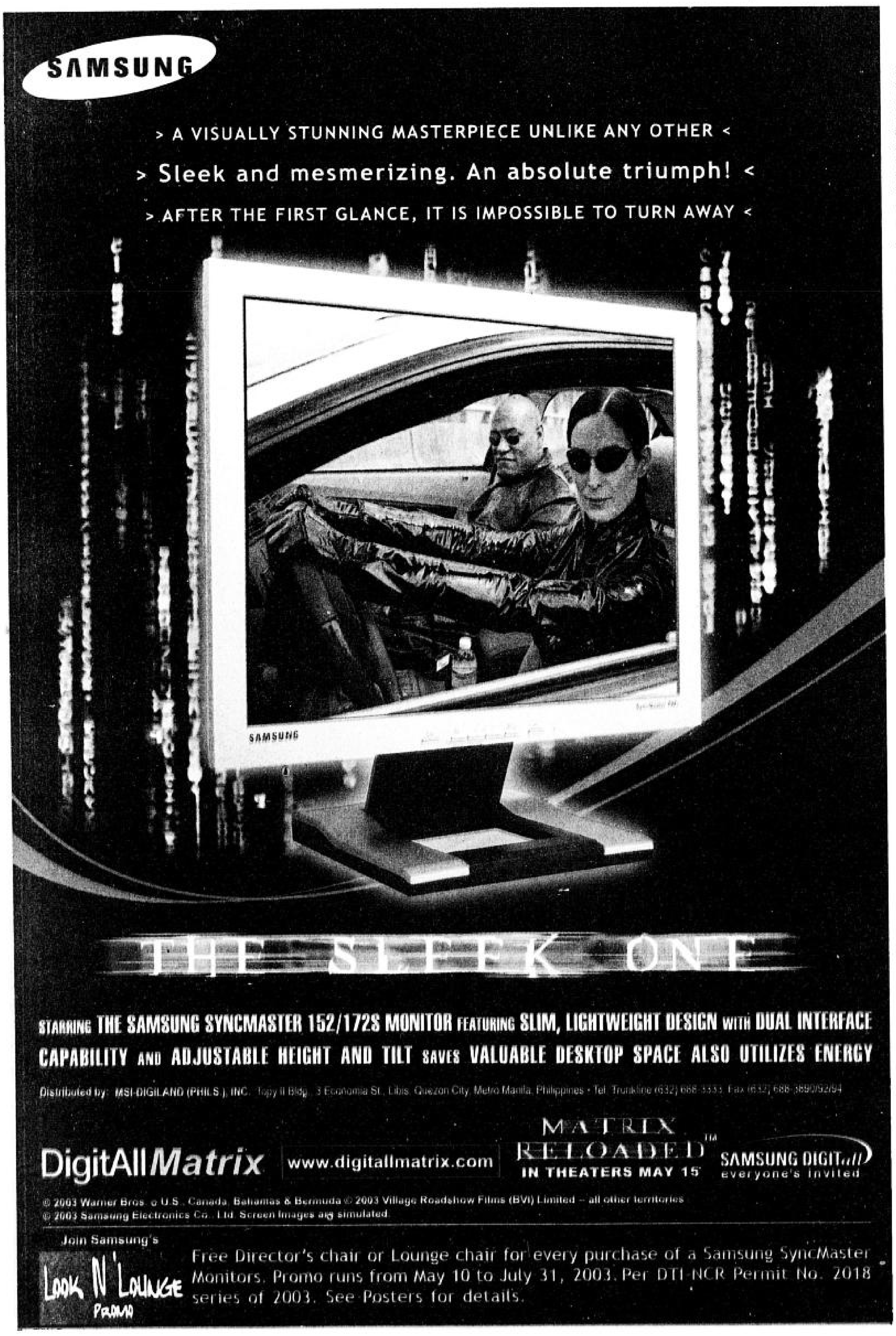

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Drive vs illegal towing draws flak

By Christian V. Esguerra and Luige del Puerto

THE METRO Manila Development Authority clarified yesterday that towing operations would still be under the supervision of local government units.

Angelito Vergel de Dios, the agency's Traffic Operations Center chief, said MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando just wanted to be informed of the situation so the agency could respond to increasing complaints by motorists.

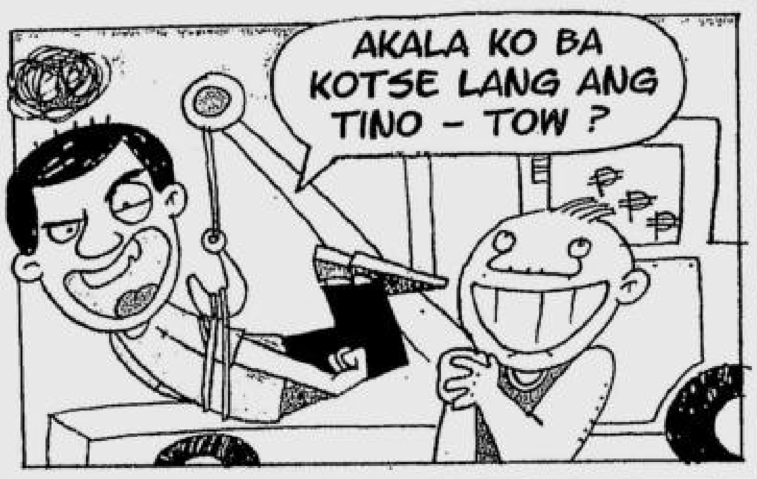
The agency announced the other day a crackdown against illegal towing firms in the metropolis, and has set guidelines for towing operations.

In Pasay City, Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad yesterday rejected the new policy giving the MMDA full powers over towing firms.

"Centralizing towing operations with the MMDA will create a lot of trouble," Trinidad said. "Local governments already have their own towing ordinances."

Vergel de Dios said the MMDA receives many complaints daily on illegal towing operations, adding they wanted to know details so they could respond appropriately.

Under the new policy and guidelines, the operation of towing companies, though authorized by local governments but is not sanctioned by the MMDA, will be deemed illegal, Vergel de Dios added.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CANCER CORN
Bound to their wheelchairs, Obet Verzola (left) and Luisita Esmao are on their 22nd day of hunger strike to protest against "cancer corn." Fr. Robert Reyes joins the hunger strikers who are on their way to Malacañang.
JOAN BONDOC

Cops storm lair of Baron slay brains; 2 dead

By Christian Esguerra

THE SUSPECTED brains behind the Baron Cervantes murder is leaving behind a bloody trail.

Two men were killed when Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto's men clashed with the group of fugitive Rafael Cardeño on Monday night in Laguna.

Seven members of Maganto's Task Force Cervantes stormed Cardeño's safe house in Barangay Damayan in Famy town at around 9:45 p.m. to serve a seven-month-old arrest warrant for Cardeño and fellow fugitive Santiago "Sonny" Camacho.

Maganto yesterday said the two suspects, backed by heavily armed men, had earlier been spotted in the area.

But even before authorities could enter the house, a certain Benjamin Bagulbagol, 49, allegedly opened fire, hitting team leader SPO1 Apolinario Jimenez in the chest and right arm.

Maganto said Bagulbagol was killed in the ensuing fire fight while his supposed live-in partner, identified only as Maricel, was hit by a stray bullet.

Jimenez, 42, later died at the hospital.

Earlier, another team member had been killed in a vehicular accident while casing a suspected hideout of the fugitives, Maganto said.

Angered by the death of his men, Maganto vowed anew to get Cardeño and Camacho "dead or alive."

"Cardeño and Camacho are no ordinary criminals," he told the INQUIRER. "They're giving us a tough time."

Bagulbagol, who allegedly has a string of criminal cases in Laguna, owned the house where the fugitives had stayed, Maganto claimed.

Cervantes' father Roque yesterday appealed to the fugitives to surrender.

"Two people have just been killed," he said. "You can prevent more bloodshed by giving up and facing charges in court."

Monday's encounter was the first between Maganto's and Cardeño's men since the police official was tasked to go after the former chair of the Young Officers Union in January.

Last month, Maganto said three of his policemen conducting surveillance operation were chased by several heavily armed men in Laguna.

The suspects, he said, were Cardeño's "advance party."

On April 30, the task force nearly got Camacho during a raid of his safe house in Antipolo City, Maganto said.

The team found IDs and pictures, indicating that Camacho might have gotten a makeover to elude arrest.

Camacho allegedly shaved his mustache and lost some pounds.

Candies first, softdrink next, abused after

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE GIRL apparently thought the *buko* vendor was so kind and nice.

She was then playing inside the compound of the St. Joseph's Church in Gagalangain, Tondo, at around 2 p.m. on Monday, when the man approached her.

The vendor told her he wanted to pray inside the church and if she agreed to go with him there to pray, he would give her candies and a softdrink.

Police said the 7-year-old girl apparently did not suspect anything amiss so she agreed to go with the vendor.

Once inside, however, the vendor grabbed the girl and dragged her to the toilet.

Once they got there, the suspect proceeded to abuse the girl. Unfortunately, nobody noticed the dastardly act happening right inside the church compound.

After he satisfied his lust, the suspect left behind the girl in tears inside the toilet.

Parishioners found her crying inside the toilet, according to investigator SPO4 Maria Cruz.

In Pasig, police arrested a 31-year-old man for allegedly committing acts of lasciviousness against a 9-year-old girl in a neighboring house.

Police identified the suspect as Allan Magdame, of Barangay Bambang, Pasig.

Police said the suspect was caught by the girl's parents while he was fondling the girl's private parts. *With a report by Nelson Flores*

Honest police officer returns P329,000

IT SOUNDS too good to be true, yet there it is—a policeman has just returned more than P300,000 in cash which he came across behind a marketplace in Quezon City.

Director General Reynaldo Velasco, National Capital Region Police Office chief, has commended Senior Insp. Bert Malaza for turning over the cash and restoring the dignity of the police.

According to a press statement from the NCRPO, Malaza found the cash last week while he was patrolling the vicinity of the Manggahan Market in Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

When Malaza found the cash—P329,000 contained in a knapsack—he immediately became suspicious, believing that the money came from an illegal source. He immediately surrendered the money to Central Police District director Chief Supt. Napoleon Castro, hoping that it would lead to the arrest of the person who may have left the bag behind.

As a reward for his honesty, the officers and men of the NCRPO, from Velasco down to the command group, pitched in to give Malaza a P20,000 cash award. An anonymous donor, who was overwhelmed by the cop's honesty, also contributed P15,000 to the pot.

"We have heroes in the Metro Manila police whose everyday deeds come unnoticed, but are heroic just the same," Velaso said. "These are the men and women of the NCRPO, who ensure the maintenance of peace and order in the metropolis."

"Police officers like Malaza are the kind of cops who bring back the trust and confidence of the public in the police corps."

NBI rescues girl forced to work by job agency

By Philip C. Tubeza

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents have rescued a 14-year-old girl who was detained and forced to work by an employment agency in Manila.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said his men arrested Santiago M. Fabian III, the manager of Express Employment Bureau, at 2557 Arellano Ave., Vito Cruz, Malate, Manila and his employee Lee de Jesus for violating the country's child protection laws and illegal detention.

The NBI said the victim and her mother applied for work at Express on Labor Day.

De Jesus told the mother to execute a waiver for her daughter, who is a minor. The mother agreed after she was promised that her daughter would not be separated from her. De Jesus told her to leave her daughter behind.

But when she returned the next day, she learned that her daughter was already employed by a Chinese-Filipino in Malabon.

Expect heavy traffic on NLEX

By Jerome Aning

HEAVY traffic caused by the ongoing construction work, counterflows, lane closures and re-routings are expected to greet commuters traveling the North Luzon Expressway these days.

The Philippine National Construction Corp. will implement counter-flow traffic on the south-bound lane of a 12-kilometer stretch of the NLEX, from the San Simon Interchange, near the Candaba Viaduct, to the San Fernando Interchange.

The north-bound portion of the same stretch is being repaired and elevated because it is flood-prone.

Travel time delay due to the counterflow along is expected at one and one-and-a-half hours.

The PNCC and Toll Regulatory Board, in coordination with the interior, tourism and public works departments, are advising motorists to plan their trips and be aware of alternative routes to the North.

Top officials of five government agencies held a joint press conference at the DOT office yesterday to discuss the implication of the ongoing construction.

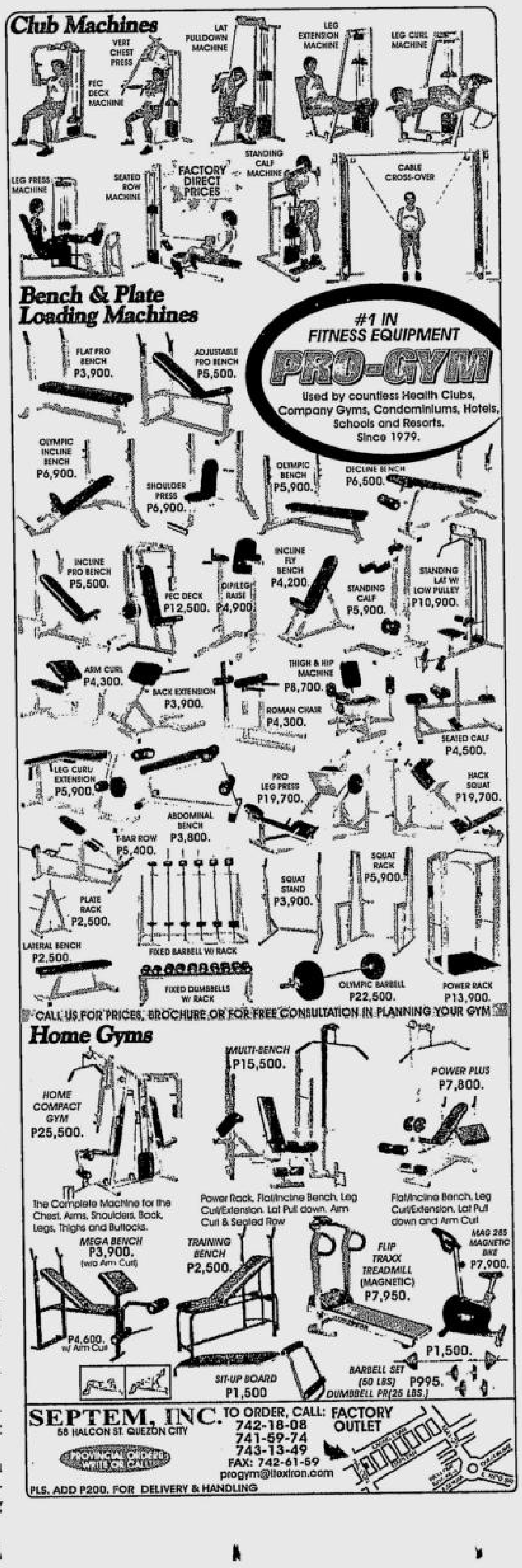
SARS quarantine approved in Manila

PEOPLE in Manila suspected of being afflicted with Sev ere Acute Respiratory Syndrome will have to undergo a mandatory 10-day quarantine.

This was contained in an ordinance approved by the City Council yesterday.

Under the ordinance, any person who refuses to be quarantined would be jailed for six months or fined P6,000, or both.

SARS suspects will be quarantined in an "appropriate and suitable place" at the Ospital ng Maynila in Malate. *Jerome Aning*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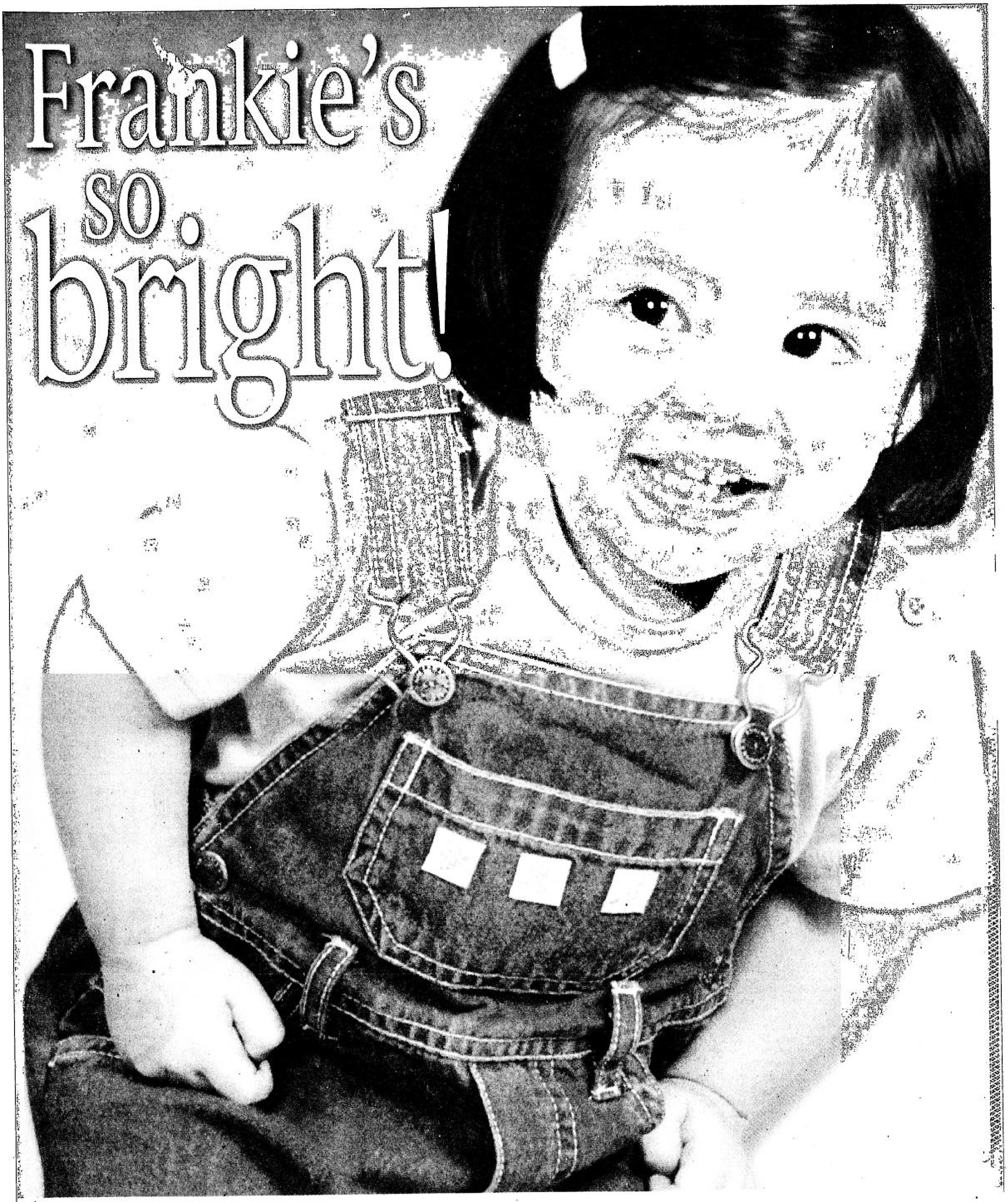

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High hopes for Lanao Palaro

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THERE are seven regions willing to take part in the Palarong Pambansa in Tubod, Lanao del Norte and organizers remain optimistic the number would grow as the peace and order situation in the province improves.

President Arroyo's declaration Monday that the Palaro would remain in Tubod is also expected to convince the rest of the 16 regions to send delegations to the Games slated at the Mindanao Civic Center at a still unspecified date.

There are reports the Palaro would be held once the exploratory peace talks resume between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Ms Arroyo has given the MILF until June 1 to go back to the negotiating table.

At any rate, the Philippine Sports Commission and the Department of Education said they are open to holding the Games even during the school season.

Lanao del Norte officials had earlier stressed they are ready to stage the Games any time and that the second postponement announced PSC chair Eric Buhain last week had given them more time to prepare for the sportsfest.

Before the Palaro was first rescheduled, 12 regions had confirmed their participation aside from key cities and municipalities which vowed to field their athletes despite their respective regions' decision to withdraw.

Regions 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, Caraga and Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao are still bent on competing according to Region 10 director Jesus Taberdo.

Except for Region 7, which listed 80 student athletes, the rest come from Mindanao.

"They are looking up to the Palaro to erase the stigma which was brought about by conflicts between the government and the Muslim rebels," said Lanao del Norte information officer Richel Umel.

The Palaro, originally scheduled May 4-11, was reset for the first time because of the April 26 MILF attacks in the Lanao del Norte towns of Maigo and Balo-i.

Hotdogs try to stay alive

GAMES TODAY *(Philsports)*
5:00 p.m.— Purefoods vs FedEx
7:30 p.m.—San Miguel vs Coke

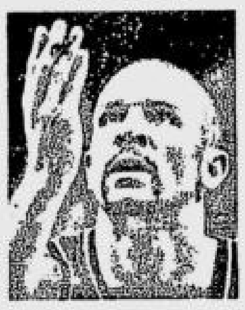
By Marc Anthony Reyes

PUREFOODS tries to hurdle FedEx today and stay alive in the PBA Samsung All Filipino Cup at the Philsports arena in Pasig.

The Hotdogs, who need to beat their last three opponents to remain in the

HOTDOGS/ A26

WHAT'S INSIDE



Kidd sizzles as Nets sweep Celtics /A26

Jackson rejoins Lakers /A26

Delariarte up by 1 /A27

Santos cleared/A26

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: Lakers vs Spurs, Game 5; 9:30 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.); Solar Sports - Momentum has shifted to the side of LA after winning two straight at home. Only seven teams have bounced back from 0-2 deficits and gone on to win a seven - game series in NBA history. Are the Lakers poised to make it an elite eight?

TENNIS: Hamburg Masters; 12 noon, 2 p.m., 7 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.; Star Sports -Baseline beauties, smashes, forehands and backhands are served as first and second round tennis action continues in Germany.

BILLIARDS: Rack 'Em Up 2; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.; ESPN - Legendary Filipino cue artists Bata Reyes and Django Bustamante take center stage as they take on separate opponents.

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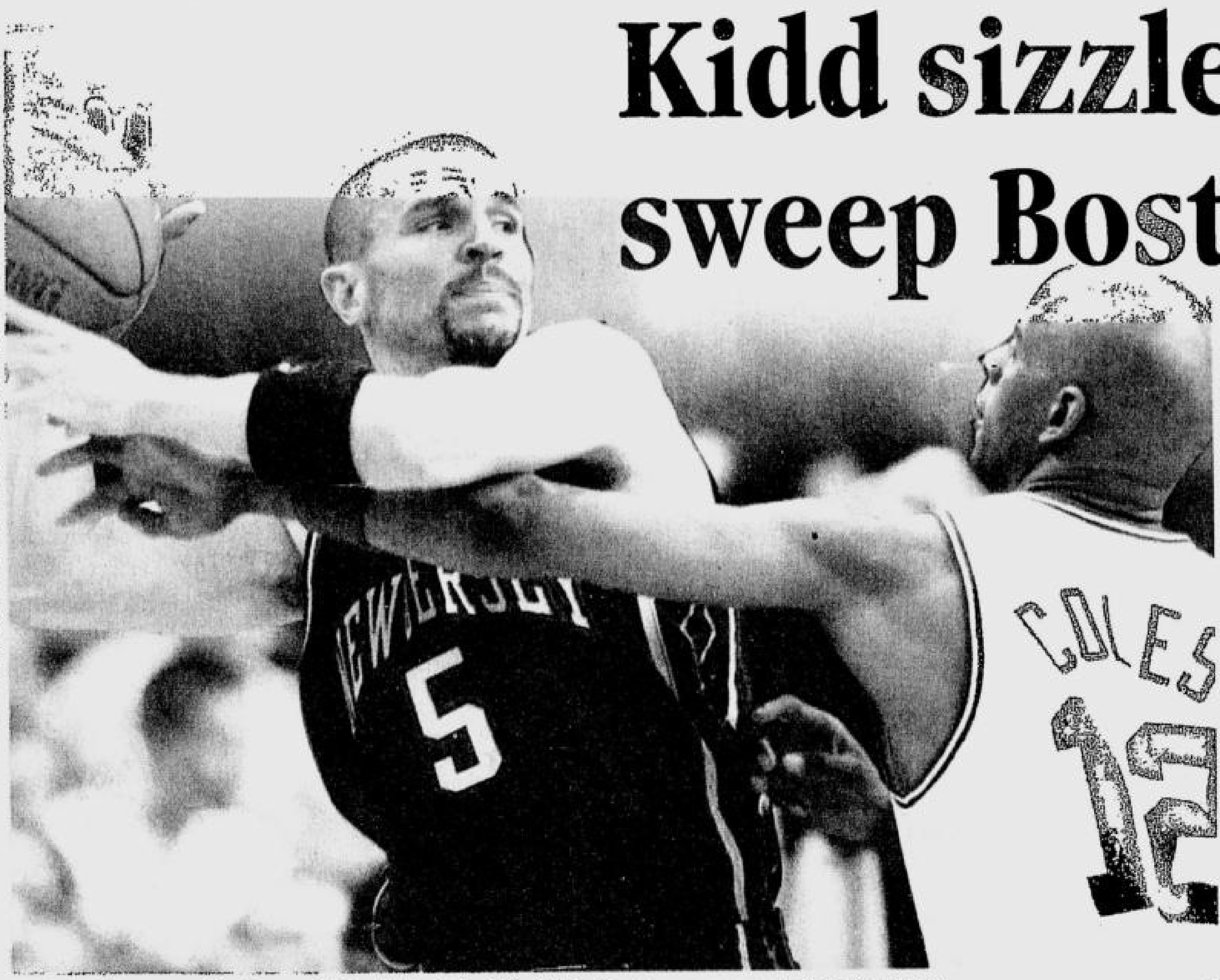
Kidd sizzles as Nets sweep Boston Celtics



KIDD (left) is pressured by Boston Celtics Bimbo Coles (12) while looking for an open man in the third quarter. AP

BOSTON--Jason Kidd scored 29 points as the New Jersey Nets completed a sweep of the Eastern Conference semifinal with a 110-101 win in double overtime Monday.

They'll play in the Eastern Conference final for the second straight year against Detroit or Philadelphia. That series, tied 2-2, resumes Wednesday (Thursday in Manila).

New Jersey swept a best-of-seven series for the first time after being swept in seven of them, including last year's NBA Finals against the Los Angeles Lakers. It was only the third time Boston was swept, and the first in a seven-game series in 20 years.

"To come and sweep the Boston Celtics is just history in itself," Kidd said. "They've had so many talented teams."

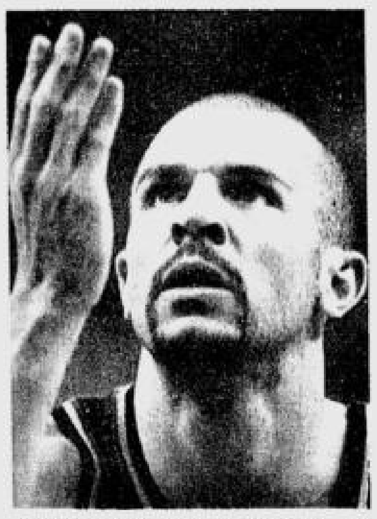
The Celtics had a chance to win in the first overtime, but Paul Pierce missed a 3-pointer as the buzzer sounded with the score 97-97.

The Nets then held the ball before Kidd hit a 3-pointer as the buzzer sounded — a final farewell to the Boston fans who taunted with yells of "wife beater," for more than a year. The taunts were a reference to charges he struck his wife in 2001; the charges were dropped when Kidd underwent anger counseling and paid a fine.

Kidd added 10 rebounds and nine assists, while Martin finished with 22 points and 10 rebounds.

"Jason Kidd is a great player," Boston coach Jim O'Brien said. "He's the best passer I've ever seen in my life."

Added Eric Williams: "He's probably the best player going on right now. He takes all 12 of those guys and makes them like superstars."



KIDD blows kisses to the ring. AP

For Boston, Pierce had 27 points and 10 rebounds, while Tony Delk scored 23, a career playoff high.

Antoine Walker had 20 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for the Celtics and went 8-for-15 from the field.

Richard Jefferson and Eric Williams traded baskets in the second overtime before Kerry Kittles' 3-pointer put the Nets ahead to stay, 102-99, with 3:56 remaining. Williams' basket was Boston's only one of the second overtime as the Nets outscored the Celtics 13-4.

Kenyon Martin's layup made it 104-99 before Jefferson hit a free throw. After Williams missed a 3-pointer, his two free throws made it 105-101 with 36 seconds to play.

Kidd was fouled and made both shots, and Williams missed a layup on the Celtics' final possession.

The Nets then held the ball before Kidd hit a 3-pointer as the buzzer sounded — a final farewell to the Boston fans who taunted him for more than a year. *AP*

Jackson rejoins LA Lakers, will coach in San Antonio

BENCH TACTICIANS: Jackson (left) with assistant Jim Cleamons. AP

EL SEGUNDO, Calif.--An upbeat Phil Jackson rejoined the Los Angeles Lakers on Monday, two days after undergoing a heart procedure, and he will coach in Game 5 against the San Antonio Spurs.

"I'm feeling good, I feel like a new man, actually," Jackson told reporters before the Lakers flew to San Antonio for Tuesday night's game at SBC Center.

The Western Conference best-of-seven semifinal is tied 2-2.

"We're back in the hunt in the playoffs with a team that's rejuvenated, and I've got a new lease on life," Jackson said. "The biggest thing is moving forward from here. You have the energy, the resolve, to move on."

Jackson underwent an angioplasty Saturday to open his left anterior artery, which was over 90 percent blocked. He was released from Centinela Hospital Medical Center on Sunday morning but watched the Lakers' 99-95 victory over the Spurs on television.

"I could have come back yesterday," he said. "I had an allergic reaction to antibiotics."

Jackson, 57, said he didn't believe stress caused his problem.

`It's about cholesterol, basically," he said. But he added that the doctors told him to keep his stress down.

It was the first postseason game Jackson has missed in his 13-year career as an NBA head coach. His teams have won a record 25 straight playoff series and nine championships, equaling the record of former Boston coach Red Auerbach.

He guided the Chicago Bulls to six championships during the 1990s and the Lakers to titles in his three full seasons so far as their coach.

The Lakers are attempting to become the second team in NBA history to win more than three straight championships, joining the Boston Celtics, who won eight straight starting in 1959.

Assistant Jim Cleamons filled in for Jackson on Sunday. Jackson said doctors had no reservations about his traveling to San Antonio and returning to the bench. *AP*

SOLAR Sports will telecast the pivotal Game Five of the Los Angeles Lakers-San Antonio Spurs NBA Western Conference semifinals live at 9:30 a.m. today (May 14). The replay will be at 8 p.m.

AT A GLANCE

NBA PLAYOFFS 2003

SECOND ROUND

Eastern Conference

(1) Detroit vs. (4) Philadelphia

Pistons 2, Sixers 2
Game 1: Detroit 98, Philadelphia 87
Game 2: Detroit 104, Philadelphia 97
Game 3: Philadelphia 93, Detroit 83
Game 4: Philadelphia 95, Detroit 82
Game 5 at Detroit (May 15, TBD)
Game 6 at Philadelphia (May 17, TBD)
*Game 7 at Detroit (May 19, TBD)

(2) New Jersey vs (6) Boston

Nets 4, Celtics 0
Game : New Jersey 97, Boston 93
Game 2 : New Jersey 104, Boston 95
Game 3: New Jersey 94, Boston 76
Game 4: New Jersey 110, Boston 101
New Jersey wins series, 4-0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

(1) San Antonio vs (5) LA Lakers

Spurs 2, Lakers 2
Game 1: San Antonio 87, Lakers 82
Game 2: San Antonio 114, Lakers 95
Game 3: Los Angeles 110, San Antonio 95
Game 4: Los Angeles 99, San Antonio 95
Game 5 at San Antonio (May 14, 9:30 a.m.)
Game 6 at Los Angeles (May 16, 8 a.m.)
*Game 7 at San Antonio (May 18, TBD)

(2) Sacramento vs (3) Dallas

Kings 2, Mavs 2
Game 1: Sacramento 124, Dallas 113
Game 2: Dallas 132, Sacramento 110
Game 3: Dallas 141, Sacramento 137
Game 4: Sacramento 99, Dallas 83
Game 5 at Dallas (May 14, 7 a.m.)
Game 6 at Sacramento (May 16, 10:30 a.m.)
*Game 7 at Dallas (May 18, TBD)

* If necessary
TBD (To Be Determined)

Nightmare is over for winning jockey

SANTOS: On to Preakness.

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky--There was nothing to the photo finish, after all. There was nothing in jockey Jose Santos' right hand but a whip.

Questions about his winning ride in the Kentucky Derby were answered Monday when Churchill Downs stewards determined the Chilean had not broken the rules, ending a controversy that threatened to tarnish thoroughbred racing's premier event.

"There is no evidence that would suggest,that Mr. Santos had any prohibited device in his possession or that he engaged in any improper actions during the race," chief steward Bernie Hettel said at a news conference.

It all started with a photograph brought to the stewards' attention by The Miami Herald.

The shot, by Getty Images, showed a dark area in the space between Santos' hand and his whip as he crossed the finish line.

Santos can now focus on Saturday's Preakness, then the Belmont Stakes on June 7. If Funny Cide wins in Baltimore, he would have a chance to be the first horse since Affirmed in 1978 to win the Triple Crown.

"I am thankful this nightmare is over," he said. *AP*

Hotdogs try…

From page A25

running for the last berth in Group A, face the Express at 5 p.m.

San Miguel Beer and Coca Cola, both assured of at least a rubber match for the last quarterfinal berth, slug it out in the main game at 7:30 p.m.

Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio will have his hands full against the determined Express, who are on a three-game winning run.

On the other hand, the Hotdogs have lost their last three games. If they survive Fed Ex, they still have to beat Talk N' Text and San Miguel, in that order.

The Beermen will stake their own three-game winning streak against the Tigers, who are fresh from a victory over the Hotdogs.

Archers seal showdown with Blu

GAMES TOMORROW
2 p.m.—Blu Star vs ICTSI-Archers
4 p.m.—Viva Mineral Water vs LBC

By Dennis U. Eroa

MAC "The Knife" Cardona of ICTSI-Archers proved too sharp for Nutri-licious yesterday in the Sunkist PBL Unity Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

Hardly showing the effects of a back injury which forced him to miss three games, the 6-foot Cardona sizzled as ICTSI downed Nutri-licious, 110-76, to arrange a showdown with the Blu Star Detergent tomorrow for the top spot in Pool B.

Cardona tore apart the Juicer's defense with 24 points on 11-of-15 shooting. He also collared eight rebounds and issued four assists in a game the Archers controlled after taking an early 24-18 first-quarter lead.

Welcoat Paints routed LBC-Batngas, 80-64, in the second game to keep its semifinal hopes alive.

ICTSI-ARCHERS 110--Cardona 24, Yeo 18, Thoss 7, Villanueva 6, Gavino 6, De Jesus 6, Ramos 6, Aldeguer 6, Uy 5, Magsumbol 4, Ferrer 3, Jose 3.

NUTRI-LICIOUS 76--Junio 25, Sotto 14, Daep 13, Omolon 12, Lanete 8, Federiso 6, Gonzales 5, Feliciano 2, Valdez 1, Vainio 0, Cordero 0.

Quarters: 24-18, 54-38, 87-49, 110-76

RACING TIPS AT SAN LAZARO PARK BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Go Johnny Go 2. Oh Diva 3. Victory Lap
Race 2--1. Dedicated 2. Great Hill 3. Double Header 4. Passionately 5. Wild Guess
Race 3--1. Sekreta 2. Love and Kisses 3. Palachik 4. Day and Night
Race 4--1. May's Magic 2. La Española 3. Dalidali 4. G Square 5. Gold Marlin
Race 5--1. Gentleman's Lady 2. Imperial Act 3. Candid
Race 6--1. Vhinggel 2. Cue Artist/Winning Streak 3. Pep Up 4. Arbiter 5. Jigolo
Race 7--1. Maging Malalino 2. Boogie Shoes 3. Rumba 4. Traktora
Race 8--1. Masagana 2. Absurd 3. Scene Stealer 4. Bold Lucky 5. Speed Charm
Race 9--1. Iverson 2. Hasty 3. Court General 4. Virgin Atlantic 5. Free Again

Paradorn ousted

HAMBURG, Germany--Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten made a winning start to the Hamburg Masters with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Argentina's Juan Ignacio Chela on Monday.

However Thailand's seventh seed and world No. 10 Paradorn Srichaphan lost 6-4, 6-3 to Spaniard Feliciano Lopez in the claycourt event, the fifth of nine Masters Series tournaments and a warm-up to the French Open starting on May 26.

James Blake from the US, the 16th seed, was also knocked out in the first round, losing 6-7, 6-1, 6-2 to Argentine Gaston Gaudio.

Argentina's Guillermo Coria, the 12th seed, and Spaniard Tommy Robredo, seeded 14, also won. *Reuters*

BASEBALL RESULTS

American League--Kansas City 3, Minnesota 2.
National League--Houston 9, Pittsburgh 4; Chicago Cubs 11, Milwaukee 5; NY Mets 9, Colorado 6; Florida 6, San Diego1; Atlanta 11, Los Amgeles 4; Montreal 4, San Francisco 3. *Reuters*

Sport of kings in turmoil

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

DO not be misled by reports that horseracing in the country is alive and well. That is farthest from the truth. The industry is falling apart and may ultimately lose its once powerful grip of the masa. Nowadays, many big-time horse owners are not happy.

"Horseracing will not prosper in this country if we continue to be complacent," said one concerned horse owner. "It's high time the Philippine Racing Commission adopt timely measures that will truly develop, promote and protect the sport of kings. The Philracom, chaired by Jaime Dilag, should not be negligent in its duty because it is its responsibility and moral obligation to the public and the legions of horseracing fans. The Philracom should always be spotlessly clean and responsible by making decisions without the slightest hint that it is under the influence of moneyed businessmen masquerading as sportsmen."

While on the subject of horseracing, how come the horses of leading owners like Putch Puyat, Hermie Esguerra, Myther Buñag and Sandy Javier of Andok's fame are not competing at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite? Could it be because SLLP is not yet ready to host big-time races as we reported? Then why did the Philracom allow the San Lazaro Leisure Park to hold races? Just asking.

The image of horseracing has been tainted and years of good work are in serious trouble as a result. It's not healthy. Pretty soon, the sport loses; the two racing clubs will lose. The public will lose. Everyone loses. A pity.

***

LUNETA BY NIGHT. One of the nicest places to spend the evening is that long stretch along Roxas Boulevard fronting the fabled Manila Bay. From being an eyesore, the place--specifically the area in front of the famous Aristocrat restaurant and Grand Boulevard Hotel--has suddenly become spic-and-span, well-lit and pulsating with life nightly. I doff my hat to hyperactive Mayor Lito Atienza for a job well done.

***

For inquiries, cal telefax (044)933-1214. My e-mail address: manolo-inigo@yahoo.com.

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Delariarte up by 1 at Langer

By Jong Arcano

DELARIARTE

SAVING strokes was the order of the day and Jerome Delariarte played well enough to avoid the big numbers.

When the first round was over, the 24-year-old defending champion wound up with a one-over-par 72 that still turned out to be the best among the 97 starters in the 2003 Philippine amateur golf championship yesterday.

Delariarte banged in back-to-back birdies from the 15th to recover from a bad stretch of three bogeys in four holes early in his homeward trip to set the early pace.

He had a one-stroke lead over veteran Tommy Manotoc, whose consistency became a potent weapon in avoiding the dangers of the dreaded Langer course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club.

As expected, the course became a scourge for even bemedalled players like reigning Southeast Asian Games champion Juvic Pagunsan, who blew up with a 79 and was a borderline case going into today's other half of a 36-hole stroke play qualifying phase where the top 32 players will advance to the match play tournament proper.

The reed-thin Pagunsan was among those bunched in 31st place along with former champion Artemio Murakami, who is still mourning the death of his murdered father.

It will take a big round for Pagunsan to survive the elims as about a dozen players are in the hunt for the last slot.

"The conditions are really hard so you need to be very consistent," said Delariarte, who also topped the eliminations last year.

Delariarte seemed in control after birdying the 10th to offset a bogey on the first hole. But he three-putted the 11th, overshot the green on No. 12 and found a bunker on the 14th for bogeys.

There are a lot of holes at Langer which can be a source of big numbers and Delariarte said he just tried to recover from each mistake.

Yayi Escuadro, an unfancied bet playing 'out of Alabang, was running third with his 74 while former pro Dave Hernandez and Raymund Sangil were tied at 75.

Legal puzzle inside a Cebu prison cell

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

AN American, who keeps his love affair with Philippine boxing by supporting promising fighters from his prison cell in Mandaue, has been cleared of a last and final charge filed by the Bureau of Immigration.

That, indeed, is good news for boxing fans.

Perry McNeely, the detainee, said a total of 12 charges against him had actually been dropped by the courts for lack of merit.

Those charges, ranging from pedophilia, rape to solicitation, were all fabricated, McNeely explained in a text message from his cell.

For the record, McNeely had pleaded with Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo that he be allowed to post bail for the 13th and last charge–acts of lasciviousness.

The plea had been repeatedly denied.

***

Anyway, Cebu newsman Salven Lagumbay relayed that the last charge was predictably thrown out on Monday by Judge Pompeyo Abarintos of the Cebu Regional Trial Court because, just like the dozen other charges, this last one also lacked merit.

But what Lagumbay and his friends, who have been vouching and rooting for McNeeley in the two years that the American has been detained, could not understand is the continued detention of the American.

"This is highly anomalous," Lagumbay protested yesterday.

***

Yes, that piece of good news about the court clearing the American of a final charge is expected to sour up.

Here's why. Ms Domingo had insisted that McNeeley merely bought his way out of the earlier charges by allegedly bribing witnesses.

This was the reason she had stood pat and refused McNeely bail for the simple and bailable case of acts of lasciviousness.

***

Anyway, you need not be a legal expert to see that McNeely has been put in a no-win situation.

Why? Because Ms Domingo can only be expected to rule that McNeely again paid his way out of this last and final charge.

What has become oddly clear is that Ms Domingo has been making a mockery of justice.

If she has remained unconvinced about the innocence of the accused, despite being cleared by the courts in a dozen cases, what could stop her from continuously detaining McNeely?

Obviously, both our justice secretary and our Chief Justice cannot provide an answer to the legal puzzle Ms Domingo has been posing.

In fact, not a few observers have been wondering if the Bureau of Immigration, mainly its chief, has been so extra special that it has been allowed to run roughshod on our legal system.

***

Listen to what Perry McNeely, obviously the victim of gross injustice, had to say in a text message: "I would like that Commissioner Domingo realize that I was truly framed up on these 13 cases, as warranted by the courts. I won all these cases and, since I've never been found guilty, I deserve my right to be set free."

McNeely, in another text message, explained that he has spent three and a half years clearing his name, the "last two years of which were spent in illegal detention with no bail granted and no hearing to prove my side."

Earlier, McNeely had explained that the many cases against him were caused by former American friends, who later became envious business competitors.

For the record, McNeely keeps a stable of calibered fighters like Roy Balataria, Pedro Malco, Roselito Campana, Jake Lear, Johnny Lear and Ping Tepura.

Why does the Bureau of Immigration continue to detain this big backer of boxing? Answer: Maybe the bureau is convinced the poor guy functions better for RP sports from his prison cell.

Superal shoots 60 at Canlubang

60.

That was the figure in Wolen Juan Superal's scorecard yesterday as the wonder boy lowered his own record for the third time in a three-week span to zoom far ahead of the field in the Samsung Jungolf Tour at the Canlubang north course.

Playing a shortened layout that proved very short for his unbelievable power, Superal came a stroke short of breaking the 60-stroke barrier–a feat only the likes of Annika Sorenstam and David Duval had achieved in the major pro tours.

Two eagles, six birdies and no bogeys.

That's how good Superal was yesterday. And despite the rule that allowed parents to caddie for their kids, Wolen didn't need the aid of his touring pro father Wendy as he worked beautifully with a Canlubang caddie.

When asked why he didn't let Wolen join the ongoing Philippine Amateur instead, the elder Superal said "it was not yet time".

Three Superals were leading in the event backed by Philippine Airlines, Airlift Asia, Exito Mfg., Global Lighting and Air Liquide, Phils. with Golf Pro as equipment sponsor. Pisanti Golf, Bellevue Manila, Third World Eximport, HBW Enterprises, MCCI Corp. and BF Technology are minor sponsors.

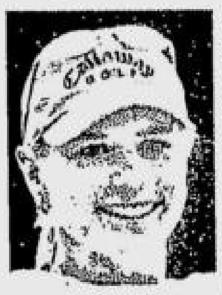
Crystal Faith Superal stormed ahead by seven over Paulina Sotto in girls Class C with her 77 and not to be left out in the Superal show was their youngest Princess who edged ahead of favorite Kristina Potenciano by two strokes with her 86 in girls Class E.

Dottie Ardina opened up a nine-shot margin over Andrea Legaspi in girls Class D with her 73.

Jong Arcano

SPORTSWATCH

Singh: Sorenstam not welcome in Tour


SORENSTAM

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Vijay Singh says Annika Sorenstam has no business playing in the Colonial next week and "I hope she misses the cut." On the odd chance he gets paired with her, he'll withdraw. "Why? Because she doesn't belong out here," Singh said after his runner-up finish in the Wachovia Championship. "If I'm drawn with her, which I won't be, I won't play." Singh knows he won't be playing in the same group as Sorenstam when she becomes the first woman in 58 years to compete on the PGA Tour. His name will be drawn from a pool of PGA Tour winners when the pairings are made. *AP*

Olongapo entry hurdles rival

OLONGAPO entry Leyan Moncera whipped Bacolod City's Joseph Abrot, 6-2, 6-2 yesterday to enter the third round of the boys' 14-under division of the Truflex National Age-Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Moncera, champion in the First City Sunrise event in Tarlac last month, will face top seed Ralph Kevin Barte, a 6-1, 6-0 winner over Francis Onate. Also gaining third-round slots were No. 4 Pablo Olivarez II over Patrick Arevalo, 6-4, 6-1, No. 7 Gerard Michael Ngo over El Santo Santos, 6-1, 7-5, Julius Lagman over Mark Balce, 6-3, 6-3, Nico Katigbak over Jeffrey Canlas, 6-1, 6-1, and Jose Lorenzo Opulencia over Gian Hembrador, 6-1, 6-0. In the unisex 10-under class, Fred Moore Dominisac rallied past John Paul Sasonata, 1-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Pinoy netter shines in New York

LIM

NATIONAL pool member Arithmetico Lim bagged his first international title by ruling the boys' 14-under division of the USTA Metro Regional Championships at the Bronx International Yourh Center in New York recently. Lim overpowered fourth seed Ramon Gonzales of Mexico, 6-0, 6-0, to claim the crown. Lim, a Chiang Kai Shek College student and protege of Manila vice mayor Danny Lacuna Jr., was assisted by his brother-coach Numero and is currently in the US as part of his training for the boys' division in the US Open this August. Among his trainers is former RP Davis Cupper Mike Dungo Jr.

Bacolod hosting tennis challenge

THE ADIDAS Tennis Challenge 2003 will be held on May 15-18 at the Negros Occidental Tennis Association (Nota) claycourts in Bacolod City. "We welcome the Adidas tennis tournament to Bacolod and also invite age groupers to this exciting event," said Nota president Dr. Severo Lacson. The netfest is organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop for the fifth straight year with support from Wilson balls and Milo. It is sanctioned by the Philippine Tennis Association. Other legs include Sancase Tennis Club in Cebu City (May 29-31); Luz village Tennis Club in Butuan City (June 2-4); Nazareth Tennis Club in Cagayan de Oro City (June 13-15); and at the Philam Homes Tennis Club in West Avenue, QC (Aug. 2-3 and 9-10).

Fil-Am breeders to be honored

FOR the first time in Philippine derby circuit, cockers and gamefowl breeders of Filipino-American links will be given due recognition and prominence in the upcoming "National Fil-Am 9-Cock Derby" on June 3, 5 and 7 at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. OPMI president Vic Yu will host the three-day event being sponsored by Sagupaan B-50 Forten, Sagupaan Mite Free Shampoo, Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer, Heritage Hotel, Pagcor Casino Filipino and Lakpue Drug's Washout Shampoo. Meanwhile, participants are reminded to submit their entries today, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m., in connection with the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) 5-Cock Derby. Derby starts at 7 p.m. tomorrow, Thursday, May 15, with about 50 fights lined-up.

POC revives awards

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee has revived the Olympism Awards to honor individuals who have exhibited the values of Olympism and organizations or companies that have generously contributed to the promotion and development of local sports.

The awards will be given on June 23 as one of the highlights of the Olympic Day celebration in the country.

The POC, under the late Gov. Jose Sering, launched the program in 1988. Among the honorees then were basketball coach Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan and sportswriters Antonio Siddayao and Enrique Gonzales.

Deadline for nomination is on June 3.

POC Awards committee chair Ernesto Fajardo said nomination forms are available at the POC offices at Rm 357 PICC and at the ground floor of the PSC administration Bldg., Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Roy Luarca

onstage 2nyt

Cowboy Grill

LAS PIÑAS ☎ 801.7644	ICE KENDI SERSIDE	NO ENTRANCE FEE
MABINI ☎ 525.1474	CRO MAGNON AFTER 8/MIXED UP	NO ENTRANCE FEE
MALATE ☎ 521.8143	FAT 16 RAB 4	NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757	MEN OPPOSE	NO ENTRANCE FEE
BIÑAN ☎(049)511.7268	ZEST STREETLIFE	NO ENTRANCE FEE

TIA MARIA'S

JUPITER ☎ 890.4735	SOUTH EDGE MAJOR 7	NO ENTRANCE FEE
REMEDIOS ☎ 522.0429	HARABAS VERSE 2	MAY 16-AEGIS & WISE GUYS
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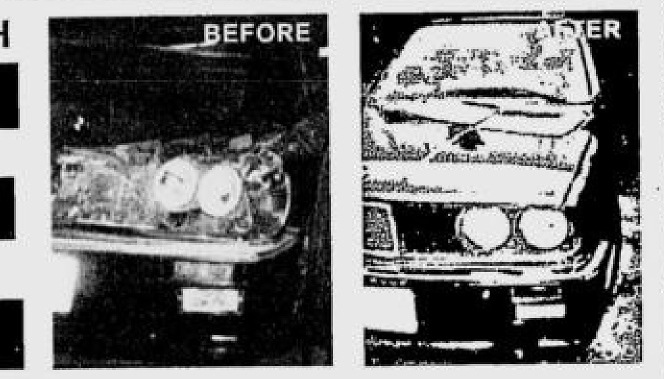

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DID YOU KNOW...

Before she became a sexy star and a member of Viva Hot Babes, **Katya Santos** did bit roles in a few Viva movies. In the **Robin Padilla-Regine Velasquez** starrer, "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," directed by Joyce Bernal, Katya played one of the neighbors of Robin. Look closely and you will see Katya dressed in a duster, a long way from her current image of a skin-baring nymph.

New characters in 'Matrix' sequels

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"MATRIX Reloaded" is generating a lot of excitement because it takes its unique sci-fi premise to a higher level. It still topbills the now iconic **Keanu Reeves** as Neo, **Lawrence Fishburne** as Morpheus, **Carrie-Anne Moss** as Trinity and **Hugo Weaving** as Agent Smith, but it also introduces new characters.

They include Seraph, a Buddha-like figure (**Lung Yun Chou**); Niobe, a former lover of Morpheus (**Jada Pinkett Smith**); and Persephone, a deadly temptress who had her eyes set on Neo (**Monica Bellucci**).

"Reloaded" also reveals the dimensions of the Matrix itself, a megacity more than 10 times the size of New York City.

Agent Smith has learned to replicate himself like a virus. In one bravura sequence filmed with a breakthrough technique described as "virtual cinematography," Neo fights 100 Agent Smiths!

What about "Matrix Revolutions," the third movie in the film series? It features an all-out war between humans and the machines. While "Reloaded" is largely set inside the Matrix, "Revolution" unfolds in the smoking ruins of the real world in the future.

Musical bouquet

MAY is Mary's month, so **Jay Gomez** and the Jesuit Music Ministry offer Our Lady a musical bouquet: "Marian Matins: Hymns to Our Lady in String Quartet."

"Matins" follows the tradition of chamber music, featuring performances by **Jeremy Dadap** (violin), **Lauro Valentino Cad** (viola), **Niño Llorin** (cello), **Ariel Arambulo** (violin) and **Corina Lapena** (violin).

"Matins" showcases favorite Marian hymns composed by Jesuits and laity: **Hontiveros**' "Magnificat" and "Maria, Bukang-Liwayway," **Francisco**'s "Stella Maris" and "Mariang Ina Ko," **Que**'s "Aba Ginoong Maria," and **Aquino**'s "Oyayi."

Feedback

ASUNCION Reyes of Parañaque, MM shares this letter which she sent to the "Ispup" spoof show on ABC-5.

"In the April 13 telecast of 'Ispup,' a sexy girl demonstrated how to cook 'Itlog Alikabok': She broke the egg, let it drop to the floor, scooped it up, poured it into a heated skillet, scooped dust from the floor and poured it into the egg. Then she let her driver and gardener eat a spoonful each of the omelet, which they spat out.

"The next scene showed the sexy woman lying on the floor, with the omelet on her supposedly bare breast, and the two men eating the omelet on her chest. The skit was vulgar!

"Many local comedy TV shows now feature woman in scanty clothes, as if this is the only way women dress up! Among these shows happen to be 'Ispup' and 'Bubble Gang.'

"The first has more sexual undertones, though I like the 'Gloria' spoof because the impersonator is good. But last April 13's show turned me off.

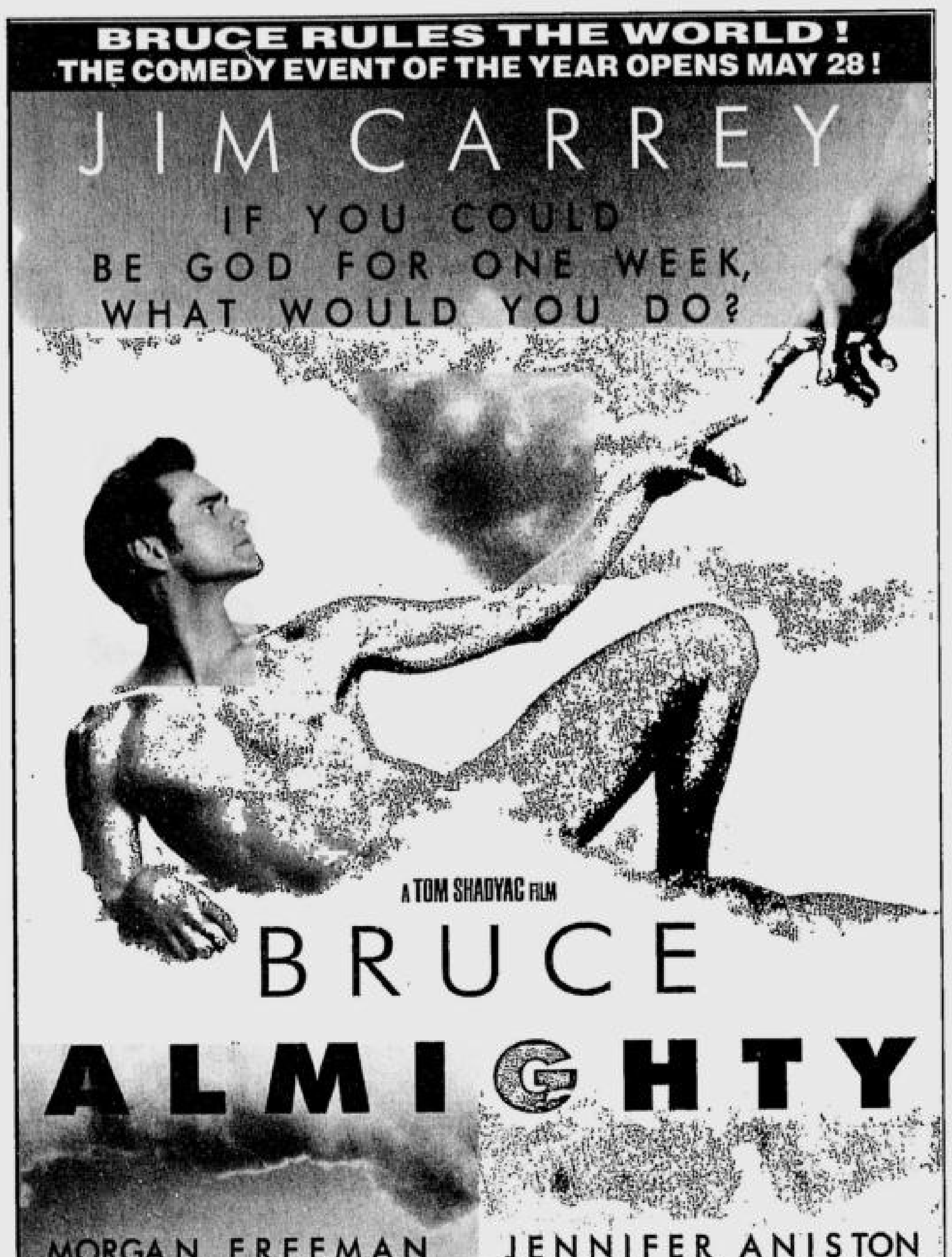
"I hope program sponsors review the shows they support with their commercials. They should make sure that they're imparting good values to their viewers, particularly children.

"Media has a big role in the development of the character of televiewers. Though my children are now grown up and cannot be victimized by distasteful shows, I pity the young children who are left by their parents to get hooked on TV, without guidance."

NEW/A30

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KIKAY
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	PUNLA
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	WALANG KAPALIT
B	KIKAY
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	WALANG KAPALIT
CINEMA-2	KIKAY
CINEMA-3	XEREX
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUS MIND
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	JOHNNY ENGLISH
CINEMA-6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-7	BAYARAN
CINEMA-8	PINOCCHIO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
CINEMA-12	THE HOURS
CINEMA-14	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-15	WALANG KAPALIT
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	WALANG KAPALIT
CINEMA 2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
CINEMA 3	X-MEN 2
CINEMA 4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



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The 25th Hour depicts the last day of freedom for a young man before he begins serving a seven-year jail term for drug dealing. Prowling through the city until dawn with his two close male friends and his girlfriend, he is forced to re-examine his life and how he got himself into his predicament, which leads to a shocking, disturbing finale.

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MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

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夕陽天使
so close
www.so-close.com

MTRCB R-13

Strictly for 13 years of age and up

Sexy Asian angels display amazing martial arts techniques in 'So Close'

Lynn (Shu Qi) and Sue (Zhao Wei) are sexy and beautiful sisters whose parents were brutally killed by powerful underworld figures. Disillusioned with the law and armed with amazing computer and kung fu skills (not to mention an enviable fashion style), the seductive sisters become professional assassins, killing criminals for other criminals.

Gutsy and brilliant female cop Yat Hong (Karen Mok) relentlessly pursue the sisters, who are in turn fascinated by their tough adversary.

SO CLOSE, starring Asia's most alluring and talented young actresses, features the coolest, breath-taking martial arts sequences from world-renowned director Cory Yuen, Jet Li's martial arts choreographer in THE ONE, KISS OF THE DRAGON and ROMEO MUST DIE. Don't miss it!

OPENS MAY 21!

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X-MEN 2 P13 12:30,3:20, 6:10,9:00	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE P13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND P13 12:50,3:05,5:20,7:35,9:50
X-MEN 2 P13 1:40,4:30, 7:20,10:10	PINOCCHIO GP 12:10,2:30,4:50, 7:10,9:30	THE HOURS P13 12:20,2:45,5:10, 7:35,10:00

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CINEMA 1 X-MEN 2 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40 P13

CINEMA 2 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE 11:40, 1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40 P13

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MAY 16 & 17, 2003	"KUH HITS BACK" (Kuh Ledesma)	9:00PM
MAY 24, 2003	DINGDONG AVANZADO	8:00PM

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SECOND WEEK!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

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Mose Persico, ENTERTAINMENT SPOTLIGHT, CTV MONTREAL

Steve Martin Queen Latifah
Bringing down the House

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

RING
the BIRTHDAY
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0

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Parents are forewarned that they should guide their children in watching this movie. Parental Guidance is required

COMING MAY 21, WEDNESDAY!

THE "RING" PHENOMENON GOES BACK TO ITS ROOTS TO FIND YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE... SADAKO!

Ring - O
She haunted you after she died.
Now, she'll terrify you to death when she's alive!!!

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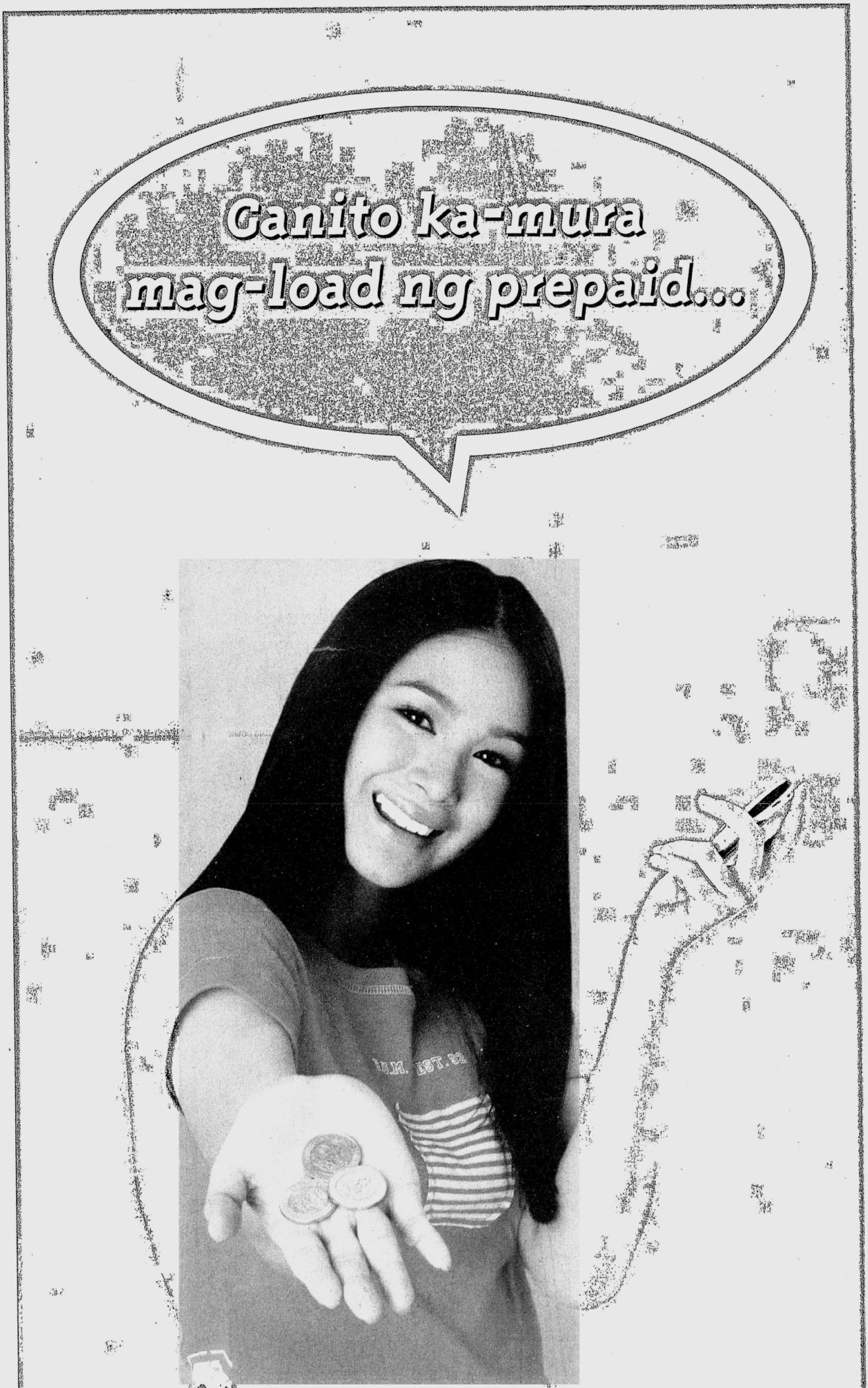
Ganito ka-mura
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SHOW TIME

Tapika goes acoustic

FOLK singer Noel Cabangon is an expert at plucking the strings of his guitar and tugging at the hearts of listeners.

Noel's baritone singing voice endears him to the enthusiastic crowd at Tapika Resto Bar on Katipunan Avenue every Monday night when he performs a wide range, from jazz to blues to folk-rock, with songs by Michael Franks, Kenny Loggins or James Taylor.

Other Tapika artists this month are the three young talents known as Make Your Momma Proud (MYMP) on Tuesdays, Nyoy Volante and Manos on Wednesdays, Wendy and Raymond on Thursdays, Ryan Regino (formerly of Mullatto Band) and Paolo Miguel on Fridays, Richard and Teri, popularly known as U-Turn, on Saturdays, and the alternative group Invocan on Sundays.

SORIANO

Acoustic nights at Starsvenue

STARSVENUE Live heeds the clamor for live acoustic music as it presents the most promising acoustic artists nightly, in cooperation with Asia Brewery.

Francis "Wings" Soriano performs every Monday. He is known in the music circuit as the songwriter/producer of Jimmy Bondoc's debut hit, "Let Me Be the One." Wings plays the hits of his favorite artists like Stevie Wonder, Elton John, Eric Clapton, Stephen Bishop, America, James Taylor and Kenny Loggins.

Making their debut performance at Starsvenue Live this May is the acoustic duo Hans & Reagan, playing every Tuesday. Hans and Reagan play music from the '60s to the '90s in their own acoustically cool style.

Kyna & Jocar are on every Wednesday. The husky-voiced Kyna croons while Jocar plays the guitar.

The duet Folkus performs everyone Thursdays, doing the hits of Joni Mitchell, James Taylor, Bob Dylan, Simon & Garfunkel, Don McLean, Freddie Aguilar and The Eagles.

Sugar Shack is on every Friday and MYMP every Saturday.

Starsvenue Live is at 826 Pasay Road (near the corner of Paseo de Roxas) in Makati City. For inquiries, call 844-6753.

New characters in 'Matrix' sequels

From page A28

"People in media have children, too. They have a big role to play in the formation of viewers' values, regardless of age—so, please take heed."

"I may be a voice in the wilderness, but I hope you will find time to listen."

Rico J and Ybeth

RICO J. Puno and **Ybeth Garcia** perform together again on May 16 at Hard Rock Glorietta 3. Rico will sing numbers from his Greatest Hits series as well as popular standards.

Ybeth will interpret songs by **Whitney Houston**, Swing Out Sisters, **Chaka Khan, Donna Summer, Christopher Cross**, and favorite Tagalog hits.

In August, Rico will leave for a six-city US performing tour.

'Angels' replay

OUR request for **Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil**'s digital film, "Angels," to be replayed on Cinema One has been granted: At 9:30 a.m. on May 21, an improved print of the film will be telecast on the movie channel.

"Angels" stars **Gina Alajar** and **Noni Buencamino** as blind masseurs. Make sure you catch it on Cinema One this time around.

Workshops

THE SINAG Arts Studio is holding two workshops this month. The Technical Director's Workshop is from May 12 to 17, and will be facilitated by **Takahashi Hojo** of Nike StageWorks, Tokyo.

And the Awareness of Light: Lighting Design Workshop will be held from May 18 to 25, with **Naomi Matsumoto** facilitating. The workshop showcase on May 25 features the Hiraya Men's Chorus.

Call 531-3491.

FUTURISTIC. Jada Pinkett Smith in "The Matrix Reloaded."

1 DAY TO GO

RESERVE YOUR SEATS BY TEXTING "SURESEATS GB3" OR "SURESEATS G4" AND SEND TO 2333. OR LOG ON TO www.sureseats.com FOR WEB RESERVATION.

And when you claim your tickets at Greenbelt 3 or Glorietta 4 Cinemas Ticketbooth, you'll get an exclusive
THE MATRIX RELOADED Postcard
for every four (4) tickets purchased.
For more information, pls. call 752-7880 or 82 (Glorietta 4) or 757-3860 to 62 (Greenbelt 3).

GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD)
Cinema 3 – 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
Cinema 4 – 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8:30

GLORIETTA 4
Cinema 1 – 1:05, 3:55, 6:45, 9:35
Cinema 3 (THX / GSC) – 11:20, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40
Cinema 6 - 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30, 11:20

GREENBELT 1
Cinema 2 – 12:45, 3:30, 7:15, 9:00

GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1 (THX / GSC) - 2:35, 5:30, 8:25, 11:20
Cinema 2 (THX / GSC) - 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40
Cinema 3 (GSC) - 12:20, 3:15, 6:10, 9:05, 12:00

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Cinema 1 (THX) - 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
Cinema 2 - 12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35
Cinema 3 - 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:25

Movies schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

MTRCB Rating:Restricted 13 (R-13)

OPENS ON MAY 15 AT

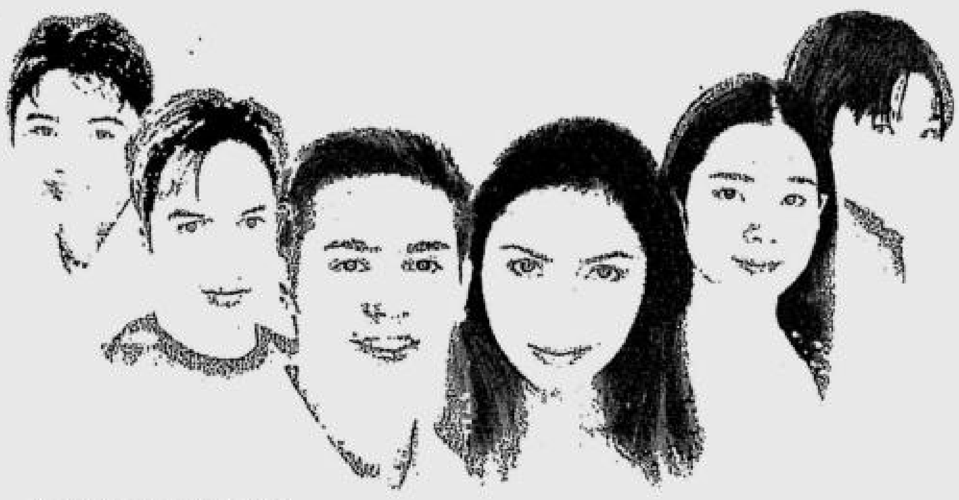
AYALA CINEMAS

MATRIX
RELOADED
MAY 15 2003

MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

OPENS MAY 21

Dina Bonnevie Ricky Davao
Cogie Domingo Maxene Magalona
Jiro Manio Paolo Ballesteros Alwyn Uytingco



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ay anghel sa lupa,
bawa't ina ay langit.

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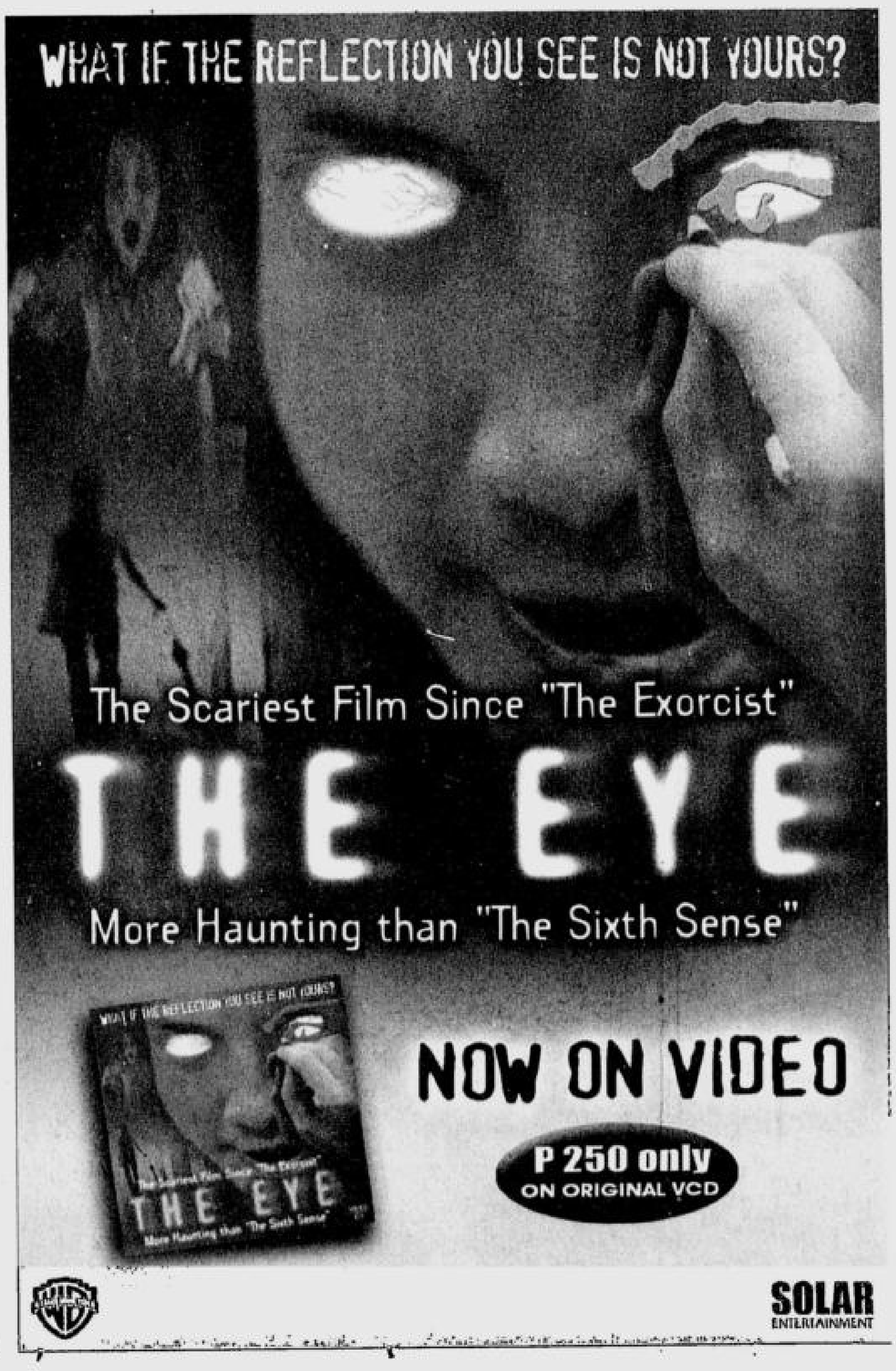
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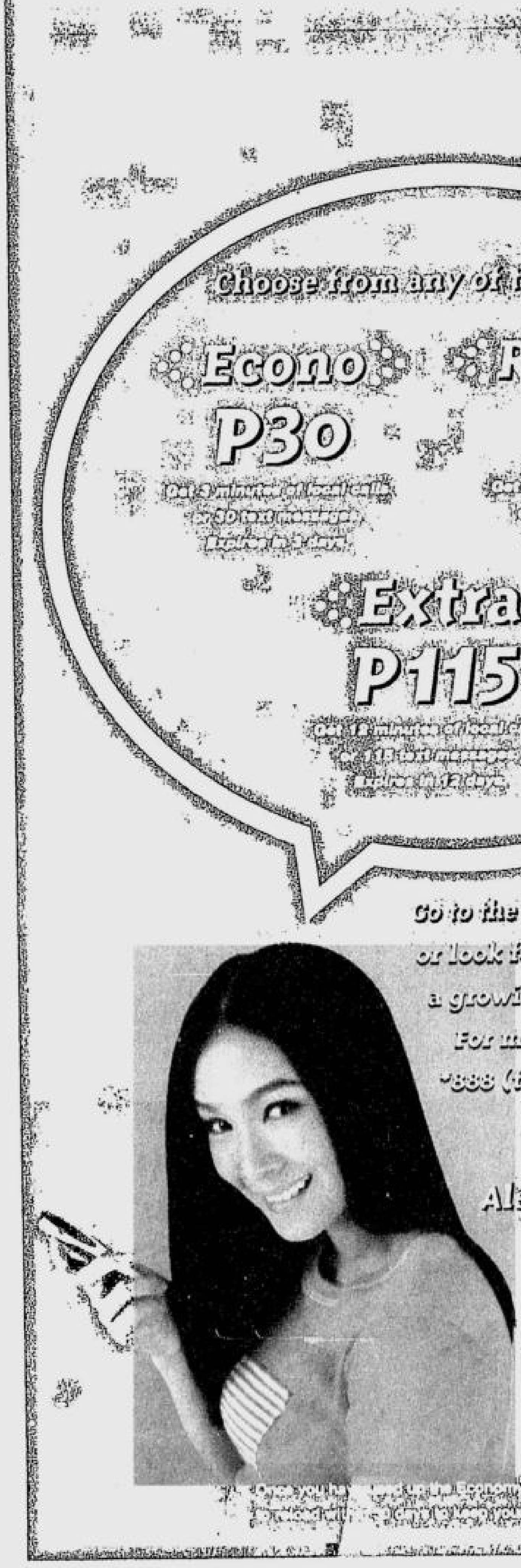

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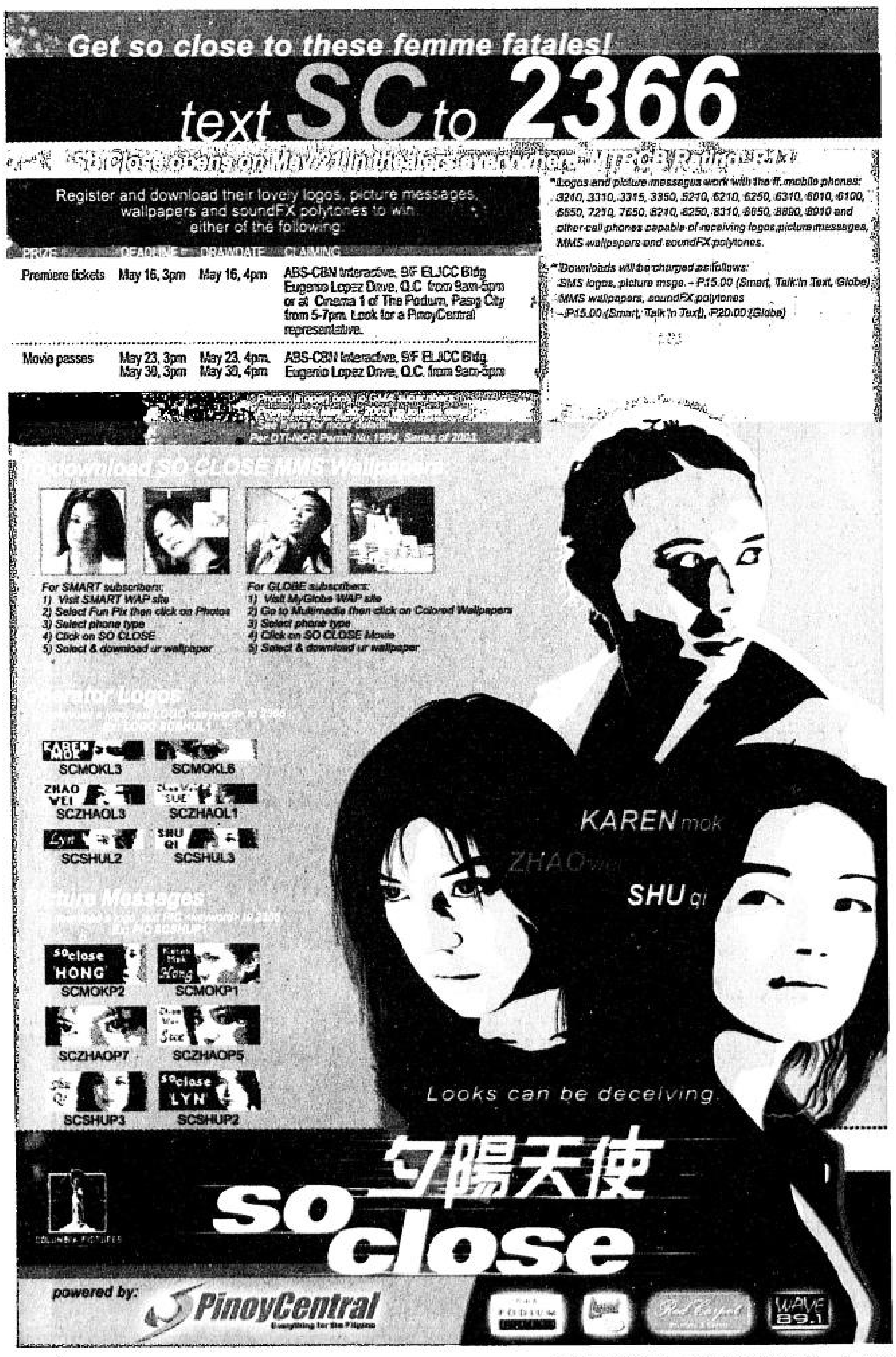
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TOO 'HIGH-END'

E! closure 'temporary,' say RMN executives

By Marinel R. Cruz

OFFICIALS of E! Entertainment Television Philippines will make their annual trip to Hollywood tomorrow, Thursday, to look for new and better programs to beef up its programming, dispelling rumors that the local E! franchise would soon close shop.

But E! Philippines insiders say the franchise would actually shut down at the end of the month. **(See related story below.)**

According to an E! Philippines executive, the group will leave for Los Angeles to join television executives from all over the world in a week-long conference where they will view the pilot episodes of US TV shows.

"This is a yearly thing," the Filipino executive told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview. "We're seriously looking into how we could reprogram."

The executive, however, asked not to be identified.

Rumors that E! Philippines, which airs on UHF Channel 31, would permanently shut down started going around after the channel announced that it would soon go off the air after airing its final show—"Wild On! Philippines"—on May 31.

"It is not a permanent closure," the executive insisted. "It is only a temporary thing while officials consider regrouping to improve the channel."

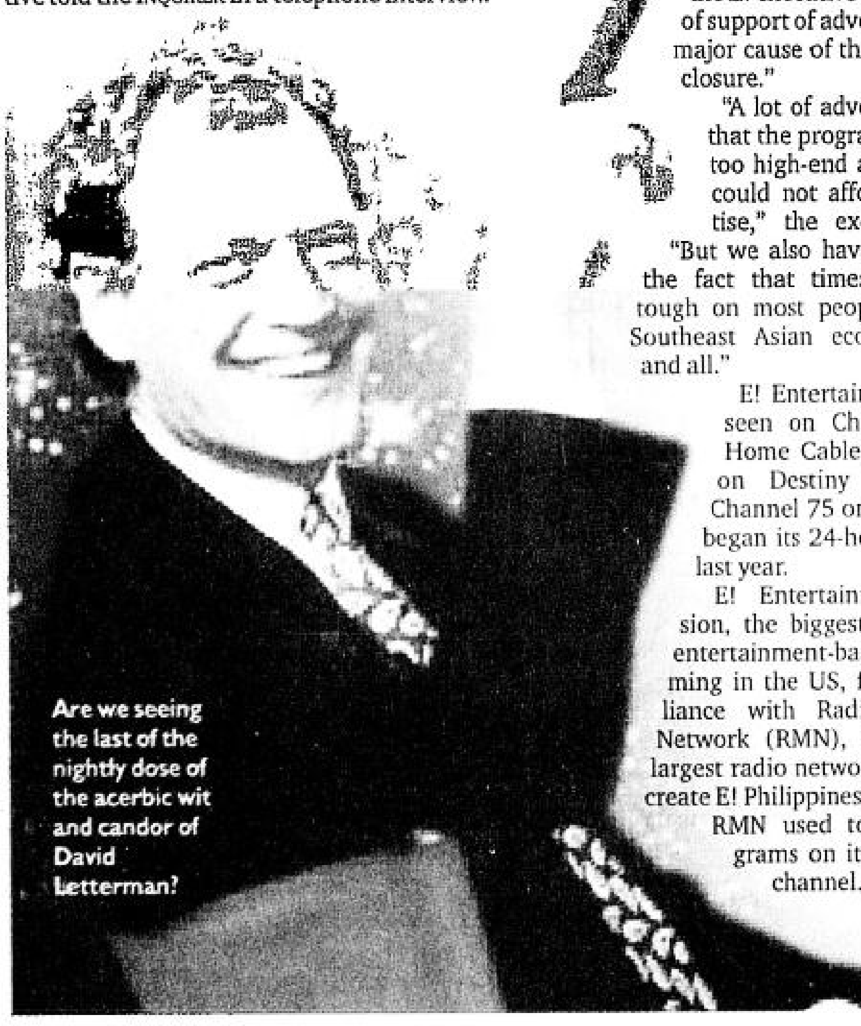
The station has not made a formal announcement as to why E! Philippines would be off the air indefinitely, but the E! executive cited the lack of support of advertisers as the major cause of the "temporary closure."

"A lot of advertisers claim that the programs on E! are too high-end and that they could not afford to advertise," the executive said. "But we also have to consider the fact that times have been tough on most people, with the Southeast Asian economic crisis and all."

E! Entertainment is also seen on Channel 16 on Home Cable, Channel 64 on Destiny Cable, and Channel 75 on SkyCable. It began its 24-hour broadcast last year.

E! Entertainment Television, the biggest producer of entertainment-based programming in the US, formed an alliance with Radio Mindanao Network (RMN), the country's largest radio network, in 2000 to create E! Philippines.

RMN used to air E! programs on its old CTV 31 channel.


Are we seeing the last of the nightly dose of the acerbic wit and candor of David Letterman?

Save E! Philippines!

By Gerrilyn Cadiz
Contributor

THE UHF channel E! Entertainment Television Philippines is closing shop!

This means no more Hollywood gossip from the classy, irrepressible Ted Casablanca, no more peeking into films' behind-the-scenes, and, more importantly, especially from the male point of view, no more trips to far-flung exotic locations with bikini-clad Brooke Burke or even with new "Wild On" host Cindy Taylor. From across the room, a collective "no!" could be heard.

Indeed, the television landscape would never be the same again. E! Philippines brought us both the glitz and glamour of Hollywood and its unflattering, seedy underbelly. We became privy to the lives of stars, both past and present, when the lights have gone off and the paparazzi have stopped chasing.

E! Philippines has become more than just a TV network. It's a way of life. And, more importantly, it revolutionized the way Philippine show biz programs were conceptualized.

Creative risk

Those who imitated some of E!'s programs, notably "Mysteries and Scandals," failed miserably. Anybody out there still remember "S.I.M" hosted by Gus Abelgas? Touches of "True Hollywood Story" flavor segments of "Startalk" and "S-Files."

For a time, Ogie Alcasid on his top-rated show "Bubble Gang" impersonated erstwhile E! News Daily anchor Steve Kmetko. And, of course, there's the very obvious T! The Tigbak Authority on "Startalk" which carries the ubiquitous exclamation point that has defined the E! logo.

To say that RMN took a creative risk in bringing E! to our shores is an understatement. It was a gamble. The network's fledgling UHF channel, then called CTV 31, showcased old movies, in the same vein as TNT. Yet between the Audrey Hepburn and James Stewart and Alfred Hitchcock festivals, CTV had E! shows incorporated in its programming mix. This was way before AXN offered chopped-up versions of E!'s entertainment news.

Cult following

It was also E! Philippines that gave us a nightly dose of the acerbic wit and candor of David Letterman. The show has won the Emmy award five times.

Most E! shows have developed quite a cult following, such as "E! True Hollywood Story," AJ Benza's tabloid-ish "Mysteries and Scandals," and every red-blooded Filipino male's favorite, "Wild On."

It will be a sad day when E! Philippines bows out by the end of the month. To RMN officials Eric Canoy and Lito Cruz, thank you for E! Philippines.

It's been a good 10 years, although we certainly would have more than welcomed 10 more.

MADONNA'S 'LIFE'
Reinventing herself again, a properly dressed Madonna performs in the HMV record shop in London's Oxford Street to promote her new album called "American Life."
REUTERS

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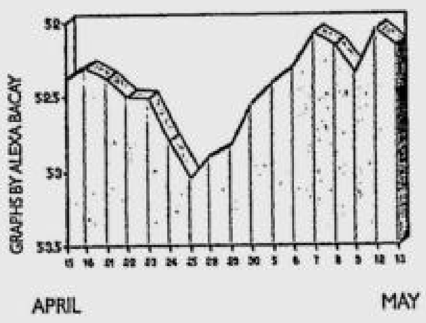

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By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration is wooing a $300-million investment from Sun Power Philippines, a firm originating from Silicon Valley that produces solar cells for exports, by dangling a government guarantee and other tax incentives.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said the Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency or PhilEXIM has approved the guarantee for the loan component of the project equivalent to $200 million.

Camacho said the company, an affiliate of California-based Cypress Semiconductor Corp., is choosing between the Philippines and India to locate the regional production of its solar cells.

Solar cells function as batteries for solar-powered units. In the provinces, some companies have started providing solar units as sources of electricity.

Camacho said the company was planning to locate in an export-processing zone in Laguna to take advantage of the tax incentives that the Philippine Economic Zone Authority could provide.

"I think the company, because it is a pioneer venture, is also entitled to other tax perks," said the finance chief.

Formerly known as Trade and Investment Development Corporation of the Philippines or Tidcorp, PhilEXIM is a state-owned financial institution primarily tasked to assist the export sector by providing guarantees, lending, credit, insurance and other enhancements that would make domestic firms more competitive.

PhilEXIM approved last month the creation of a guarantee facility for companies planning to take part in the post-war reconstruction of Iraq.

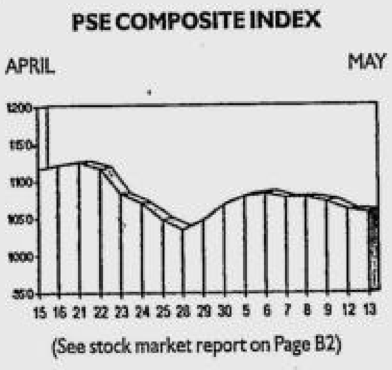
PhilEXIM president Joel Valdez said that only EEI Corp. had expressed interest to avail itself of the guarantee but the Yuchengco-owned firm has yet to formally apply.

The guarantee facility for companies seeking business opportunities in Iraq would help local firms secure performance and bid bonds and other related requirements.

PhilEXIM would require firms applying for a guarantee to have a contractors' accreditation from the Philippine Overseas Construction Board, good financial standing and performance.

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end lower



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES fell yesterday despite some gains in telecom stocks as players waited for more first-quarter results from select blue chips in the absence of inspiring leads, analysts said.

The key index dropped 2.83 points or 0.27 percent to end at 1,058.57 on thin turnover of P219.7 million.

The market's total trade on Monday was P262.85 million.

The market has risen 3.94 percent so far this year.

"There were more disappointments than positive surprises from recent first quarter announcements like Ayala Corp., which dropped 51 percent. The only positive so far, was Globe Telecom," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

In the broader market, losers beat gainers 32 to 17 and there were 43 stocks unchanged.

Analysts said players were waiting to see how the other blue chips like leading fastfood chain Jollibee Foods Corp., mall developer SM Prime Holdings, and dominant telecom giant PLDT fared in the first three months of the year.

Jollibee, which released its first-quarter report after the market closed, ended 25 centavos lower at P15.50.

Vistan said he expected the market to further consolidate in the next session within the range of 1,030 to 1,080. *Reuters*

Yield of 10-yr bonds slides to 11.75%

THE YIELD of 10-year bonds sold by the government yesterday fell by a percentage point to 11.75 percent from 12.75 percent in March as excess liquidity in the market pushed bids down.

The Bureau of Treasury raised P3.5 billion from the sale of long-term bonds yesterday against bids that reached P9.5 billion. The 10-year rate dropped to a level lower than the government's expectations of 12 percent.

Deputy Treasurer Mina Figueroa said the yield also eased as demand, particularly from insurance firms, rose. She said local interest rates should continue to decline in the coming weeks.

Traders, however, said that increased domestic borrowings from the government could stunt the returning liquidity to government securities and push rates up soon.

A trader from a local bank said the liquidity in the local market could be crimped as the government said it would take advantage of the declining rates to sell more bonds.

Late this month, Figueroa said the auction committee led by the Treasury would issue at least P3.5 billion worth of five-year promissory notes. In June, it would sell at least P10 billion worth of three- and five-year retail bonds.

1,000% RETURN

GSIS pushes Clark project

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System sees a 1,000-percent return after 15 years on its planned investment to develop a "metropolis" on 5,000 to 10,000 hectares of land in Clark, Pampanga, subject to the national government's agreement.

Amid limited investment options, the GSIS has proposed that the land in Clark be used by the government to pay the state-controlled pension fund billions in unpaid premiums since 1995.

GSIS president and chief executive Winston Garcia said the Department of Budget and Management has acknowledged that it owed GSIS P7 billion in principal and another P7 billion in interest was still ongoing reconciliation.

GSIS plans to pump in P20 billion to develop the Clark property once approved by the government.

Garcia said that he has presented his plan to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who herself has endorsed it to the Department of Finance.

"If we get it at P100 per square meter we will fully develop it into a mixed-use area with residential, commercial, industrial and recreational facilities," he said.

Garcia said that the land development would give the state-controlled pension fund the opportunity to earn a higher rate than what it was currently generating.

He also noted that since GSIS had long-term liabilities, it could wait 15 to 20 years for its investments to generate earnings. Also, he said experience showed that with every peso invested in land the investor got P10 back.

"In real estate, if you commit a mistake, time will correct it. We have the luxury of time. Prices of land over time will geometrically rise," Garcia said.

At present, GSIS has roughly P30 billion in short-term investments earning only 6 percent, far below the fund's hurdle rate of 12 percent.

The World Bank had said in a recent study that limited investment options could spell trouble for GSIS later on.

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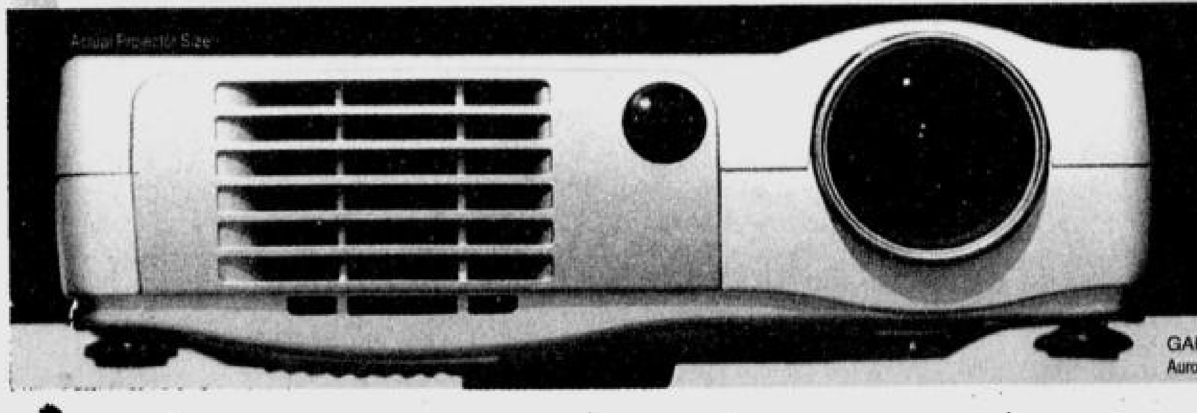

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FIRST QUARTER

Jollibee posts 32% profit jump

By Doris C. Dumlao

FAST-FOOD giant Jollibee Foods Corp. posted a 32-percent growth in net profit to P270 million in the first quarter from a year ago on the back of a 10-percent rise in system-wide retail sales.

In an investors' briefing yesterday, JFC chief finance officer Miguel Jose Navarrete said the strong performance in the first quarter had put the company ahead of its 10-15 percent profit growth target for the full year.

"There's ample opportunity to exceed that internal target," Navarrete said.

Consolidated revenues increased by 8 percent to P5 billion while income from operations grew by 20 percent to P353 million from the same quarter last year.

The company's consolidated revenues were driven by a host of sales and marketing initiatives implemented across various business units. This was complemented by cost management measures to improve efficiencies and margins despite inflationary pressures.

The strengthening of the peso against the US dollar is also seen to benefit the company for the rest of the year.

For the first three months of the year, the flagship Jollibee brand reported a 3.6-percent same-store sales increase during the quarter, sustaining its leadership position in the quick-service restaurant industry.

Pizza chain Greenwich also reported its eighth consecutive growth in same-store sales on the back of a huge improvement in margins while Chinese fast-food Chowking, which was acquired in 2000, has also become a significant contributor to JFC's profitability.

Meanwhile, operating expenses rose by 12.6 percent to P2.04 billion from a year ago even as the company continued to improve its margins and contain the costs of raw materials and packaging.

Navarrete also said that JFC would be able to complete its central commissary in Canlubang by the third quarter. The construction was delayed by a fire incident, but he said the company would be able to collect P300 million from the insurance.

The new integrated facility will have the capacity to supply the needs of 700 stores.

JFC operates the largest fast-food chain in the country. As of the first quarter, it has 879 restaurants in the Philippines and 30 overseas. Of its domestic stores, Jollibee has 438, Greenwich has 194, Chowking has 221 and Delifrance, 26.

The company was recently included in the 15-stock Morgan Stanley benchmark stock index for the Philippines.

Globe Telecom net profit seen to rise this year

By Elena R. Torrijos

ING Financial Markets, the equity brokerage of European financial conglomerate ING, has increased its 2003 profit forecast for Ayala-controlled Globe Telecom to P9.93 billion from P9.6 billion on the back of the telecom firm's good first-quarter results.

ING also said it was revising its earnings projection for Globe in 2004 to P12.37 billion or 13 percent higher than its original estimate.

However, ING Financial Markets announced that it downgraded its recommendation on the publicly listed stock to hold from buy.

In a report last May 9, ING explained that Globe's share price of P585 on May 8 was near the brokerage's target price of P600 per share, suggesting only a 3-percent upside on the current price.

Moreover, Globe's price-to-earnings ratio of 9 times and a 4.4 valuation of Ebitda—earnings before interest tax depreciation and amortization—were only slightly cheaper than that of regional peers notwithstanding the higher country risk in the Philippines.

ATR-Kim Eng completes backdoor listing via Philtread

ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc., the largest non-bank investment house in the country, has completed its backdoor listing on the Philippine Stock Exchange with the acquisition of its entire capital stock by publicly listed Philtread Holdings Corp.

In a disclosure to the PSE yesterday, Philtread said it had completed its purchase of ATR-Kim Eng Capital's entire issued and outstanding stock consisting of about 7.6 million shares for about P1.11 billion.

The shares, with a par value of P100 each, were bought based on their book value as of March 31, 2002. As such, Philtread will be renamed ATR-Kim Eng Financial Corp.

Philtread, formerly a tire manufacturing firm, also disclosed that its rights offering involving 499.99 million common shares and 99.999 million warrants at P2 each had been fully subscribed.

It offered to its stockholders five shares for every one common share held as of March 19, 2003. The shares were taken out of the increase in the company's capital stock from P300 million to P1.3 billion.

ATR-Kim Eng Capital itself acted as issue manager while First Metro Investment Corp., which has subscribed to P200 million worth of the offered shares, acted as underwriter. The ATR Holdings Group and foreign partner Kim Eng Ong Asia Holdings Ltd. took the bulk of the offered stocks.

The proceeds were, in turn, used to acquire ATR-Kim Eng Capital.

Apart from its traditional investment banking business, ATR-Kim Eng Capital has a major stake in TPG Corp., a pre-need company that sells educational and pension plans under the Professional Group Plans brand, and in ATR Professional Life Assurance, a life insurance company formerly known as GE Life.

ATR Holdings is an investment holding company owned by Consolidated Robina Capital Corp., A. Soriano Corp., Drysdale Investment Corp., TLC Beatrice, investment bankers Ramon Arnaiz, Manuel Tordesillas and Lorenzo Roxas and other members of the company's senior management while the foreign partner, Kim Eng Holdings, is a leading regional stock brokerage listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange. *Doris Dumlao*

INTEREST RATES

May 13, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 13-May-03 (%)	MART1 12-May-03 (%)
1 Month	7.1729	7.4538
3 Months	7.1932	7.6596
6 Months	8.2885	8.5
1 Year	8.6977	8.9865
2 Years	9.3159	9.3827
3 Years	10.2827	10.3327
4 Years	10.9519	11.025
5 Years	11.2808	11.3481
7 Years	11.8385	12.0038
10 Years	12.3942	12.7115
20 Years	13.0654	13.0577
25 Years	13.5673	13.5962

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

Dissenting opinions on Amari lauded

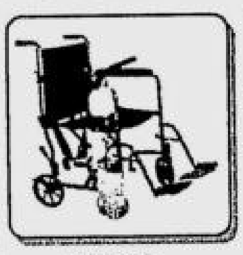
ITALIAN-THAI Development Co. Ltd. (Ital-Thai) lawyer Francis Lim said yesterday that the recent Supreme Court decision that scrapped the land deal between Ital-Thai partner Cyber Bay (formerly Amari) and the Philippine Estates Authority "lays a bad precedent for foreign investors."

Lim noted, however, that the dissenting opinions of the five other justices appear to be "a ray of hope to thousands of Cyber Bay investors, big or small."

Voting 8-5, the SC voided the deal between Cyber Bay and PEA citing, among other things, that reclaimed lands cannot be sold to private enterprises. Justice Antonio Carpio penned the SC decision and seven other justices agreed with him. Four of the five justices who disagreed with him, however, separately wrote their reasons for dissenting. Justice Renato Corona also disagreed with Carpio, but did not write an opinion.

Justice Reynato S. Puno said: "Since time immemorial, we have allowed private corporations to reclaim lands in partnership with government. On the basis of age-old laws and opinions of the executive, they entered into contracts with government similar to the contracts in the case at bar and they invested huge sums of money to help develop our economy.

"Local banks and even international lending institutions have lent their financial facilities to support these reclamation projects which government could not undertake by itself in view of its scant resources. For them to lose their invaluable property of rights when they relied in good faith on this unbroken stream of laws of Congress passed pursuant to our 1935, 1973 and 1987 Constitutions and executive interpretations is a disquieting prospect."



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Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner) *	-	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	620,000	730,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	200,000	230,000
Canlubang	400,000	500,000
Canyonwoods	-	150,000
Capitol Hills	120,000	135,000
Celebrity Sports Club	170,000	185,000
Club Filipino	110,000	180,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	160,000	185,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	190,000
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	250,000	275,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	Please Call	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	-	2,450,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	450,000	500,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	570,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	600,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	135,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	150,000
Mimosa (Individual)	-	120,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	260,000	300,000
Montemar (Individual)	35,000	-
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	-	300,000
Mt. Malarayat (Corporate)	-	500,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	200,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"	-	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	75,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	180,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	200,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,250,000	1,500,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,600,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	200,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	820,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	720,000
Valle-Verde (Individual)	130,000	165,000
Valley Golf	270,000	330,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	6,600,000

*PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE

For more information, please call:
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Model	Year	Color	Mileage	Was	Now
Certified Pre-Owned					
323i	2000	Alpine white	18k	1,825,000.00	1,775,000.00
320d	2001	Titanium Silver	13k	1,645,000.00	1,595,000.00
Executive Cars*					
316i	2002	Titanium Silver	9k	1,425,000.00	1,350,000.00
318iExecutive	2002	Titanium Silver	15k	1,950,000.00	1,900,000.00
325i	2002	Titanium Silver	13k	2,450,000.00	2,350,000.00
Other Cars					
316i	1996	Boston Green	40k	700,000.00	685,000.00
316i	1997	Alpine white	47k	725,000.00	710,000.00
316i	1998	Cosmos black	32k	810,000.00	790,000.00
316i	2002	Titanium silver	20k	1,400,000.00	1,375,000.00
318tds	1996	Titanium silver	50k	900,000.00	875,000.00
318i Limousine	2002	Orient Blue	6k	1,870,000.00	1,850,000.00
318i Limousine	2002	Black Sapphire	5k	1,890,000.00	1,870,000.00
318i Limousine	2002	Titanium silver	11k	1,830,000.00	1,810,000.00
318i Executive	2001	Black Sapphire	20k	1,875,000.00	1,850,000.00
320i	1996	Cosmos black	85k	850,000.00	835,000.00
325i	2002	Sienna Red	9k	2,390,000.00	2,350,000.00
525i	2002	Black Sapphire	10k	3,100,000.00	3,050,000.00
525i	2002	Titanium silver	15k	2,825,000.00	2,775,000.00
X5 3.0d	2003	Titanium silver	5k	4,400,000.00	4,200,000.00
725tds	1997	Orient Blue	74k	1,850,000.00	1,800,000.00

*prices valid for May 14, 2003 only.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, May 13, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	15	15	15	15	10,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	35.5	36	35.5	35.5	801,600
China Banking Corp.	700	700	700	700	60
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	24.25	24.5	23.75	24	134,600
First E-Bank Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	26.5	27	41,200
Philippine National Bank	24	24	23.75	23.75	191,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10	10	10	10	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	8,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	21,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	263,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	220	220	220	220	50
Manulife Financial Corp.	1410	1425	1410	1425	1,980
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1025	1035	1025	1030	1,150
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	11,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.74	0.75	0.71	0.72	2,420,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	570	585	570	580	16,110
Ism Communications Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	800,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.3	1,420,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	402.5	410	402.5	407.5	105,180
Ivantage Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	330,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	10,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	19,000
Manila Electric Co. B	10	10	9.7	9.7	810,000
Petron Corp.	2.06	2.1	2.06	2.06	5,353,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.48	91,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.6	2.6	2.55	2.55	79,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	180,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	500,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	16,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	23,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	15.5	16	15.5	15.5	549,200
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	140,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	55	54	55	163,700
San Miguel Corp. B	65	65.5	64.5	65.5	183,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4	4	4	4	20,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	40,000
Ayala Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	2,411,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.26	2.26	2.24	2.24	62,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	1,200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	9,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.14	2.18	2.14	2.18	11,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.19	2,800,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	640,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	4,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	8.1	8.1	8	8.1	52,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	210,000
Ionics Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	170,000
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	109,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.55	0.55	280,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	1,280,000
Music Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	270,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	400,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.48	0.75	0.48	0.75	320,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	6,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	2	2	2	2	73,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	20,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.12	33,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.84	1.9	438,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	3,800
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	490,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	140,000
Mondragon Intl Phils, Inc.	0.37	0.4	0.35	0.35	2,950,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	12.5	12.5	12	12	13,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	5,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.7	6,117,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	110,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.115	0.115	0.11	0.115	1,210,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.155	0.155	1,980,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.85	0.86	0.82	0.82	21,540,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	200,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	320,000
SM Development Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	25,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.75	4.75	1,729,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	3,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.195	2,200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	9,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	3,200,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	40,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	5,400,000
Interport Res. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	31,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	70,000
Pacifica	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	3,000,000

DISCLOSURES

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 30, 4 p.m. at the Antonio delas Alas Executive Dining Hall, 47/F of Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 30 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

MARIWASA Manufacturing Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 2, 2 p.m. at the Nolledo/Hernandez Room, 2/F of Manila Peninsula Hotel, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 5 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Marine Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 11, 3 p.m. at the Manila AB Room of Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Stockholders of record as of May 7 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. were Luis Aboitiz Jr., Jon Ramon Aboitiz, Erramon Aboitiz, Roberto Aboitiz, Enrique Aboitiz Jr., Justo Ortiz and Roberto Romulo.

* * *

MONDRAGON International Philippines Inc. denied having any information that could explain the increase in its share price from P0.25 to P0.37 per share.

* * *

ELECTED independent directors of Cosmos Bottling Corp. were Bi Yong Chungunco, Juan Santos and Pacifico Fajardo.

* * *

PHILWEB Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 29, 4:30 p.m. at the 17/F of Tower I, Enterprise Center, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of April 25 are entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

May 13, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.866852	1.000000	52.152000
Japan	Yen	0.007406	0.008544	0.445600
United Kingdom	Pound	1.394678	1.608900	83.907400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.111153	0.128226	6.687200
Switzerland	Franc	0.661063	0.762602	39.771200
Canada	Dollar	0.624128	0.719994	37.549100
Singapore	Dollar	0.500348	0.577201	30.102200
Australia	Dollar	0.561032	0.647207	33.753100
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.299524	2.652731	138.345200
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.231167	0.266674	13.907600
Brunei	Dollar	0.498908	0.575540	30.015600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000119	0.006200
Thailand	Baht	0.020459	0.023602	1.230900
UAE	Dirham	0.236025	0.272279	14.199900
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.153600	60.162500
Argentina	Peso	0.312943	0.361011	18.827400
Brazil	REAL	0.302039	0.348432	18.171400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134644	0.155325	8.100500
India	Rupee	0.018412	0.021240	1.107700
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.228149	0.263193	13.726000
Mexico	New Peso	0.085068	0.098135	5.117900
New Zealand	Dollar	0.501825	0.578905	30.191100
Norway	Kroner	0.127084	0.146604	7.645700
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015034	0.017343	0.904500
South Africa	Rand	0.118952	0.137223	7.156500
Korea	Won	0.000728	0.000840	0.043800
Sweden	Kroner	0.109024	0.125770	6.559200
Syria	Pound	0.020640	0.023810	1.241700
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025090	0.028944	1.509500
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000544	0.000627	0.032700

Spearing the competition

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

AFTER ceding the entry-level segment to Honda in this country, Toyota is finally going back to its roots by offering a compact car to battle Honda's popular Asian car, City.

Tomorrow, the Japanese motoring giant is launching Vios, Toyota's answer to the City, with no less than American pop superstar Britney Spears as endorser.

Imported completely built from Thailand, Vios (from the Latin word "vio" meaning "go" or "travel") looks like a smaller Altis, the Toyota Corolla variant that was introduced worldwide with heartthrob Brad Pitt as chief booster.

Apparently anticipating Vios, Honda last week introduced the newly revamped City, now looking more like a European sedan featuring a rear seat that folds like a jump seat in the hope of snagging the young family market as well.

Vios hopes to swamp the 1.3-liter City by offering both 1.3 and 1.5-liter versions. In addition, the marginally bigger Toyota is emphasizing Vios' DOHC (double overhead camshaft) engine against the City's single OHC for its supposed zippier drive.

Ironically, both Toyota and Honda still could not put price tags on their latest offerings until the excise tax fog lifts, we hope, by next week.

In any case, both Vios and the new City should be in the range of P550,000 to P700,000.

P399 gamble

DEBT-laden Bayantel's P399-a-month gamble appears to be paying off.

Since the service's September launching, Bayantel has picked up more than 30,000 new subscribers in its franchise area (Quezon City, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela, Caloocan and parts of Manila), according to a spokesperson of the Lopez's landline telephone company.

For P399 a month plus a P1,999 one-time installation fee, a subscriber gets a landline phone with unlimited local calls in Metro Manila. Long-distance and overseas calls plus calls to mobile phones are extra, and require pre-activation approval.

Bayantel's target is the pre-paid market that dominant carrier PLDT has also been wooing, as well as those needing a second line for the Internet.

Both the regular PLDT and Bayantel residential lines now cost P700-P750 a month, depending on the peso-dollar rate plus VAT.

Defensive advocacy

THE "depensa" TV campaign plugging Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, now flooding prime time, was produced by Infinit-1 Productions Inc., a Makati outfit controlled by coffee table book producer Sonny Jalandoni.

Jalandoni did not return phone calls seeking confirmation.

The other backroom boys who churned out the ongoing TV campaigns for the other senatorial aspirants were printed in this space last Monday, in case you missed it.

Heard through the grapevine

IN a dinner-dance befitting royalty, Erap taxation adviser Fortunato Aguas celebrated his nth birthday the other night at the Marina's in Greenhills with an overflow Erap crowd and BIR-allergic Chinoy businessmen.

Earlier, the Nationalist People's Coalition contingent from the House was in full–force at the Manila Golf Club in cocktails tendered for San Miguel godfather Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., with Speaker Jose de Venecia among the guests. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

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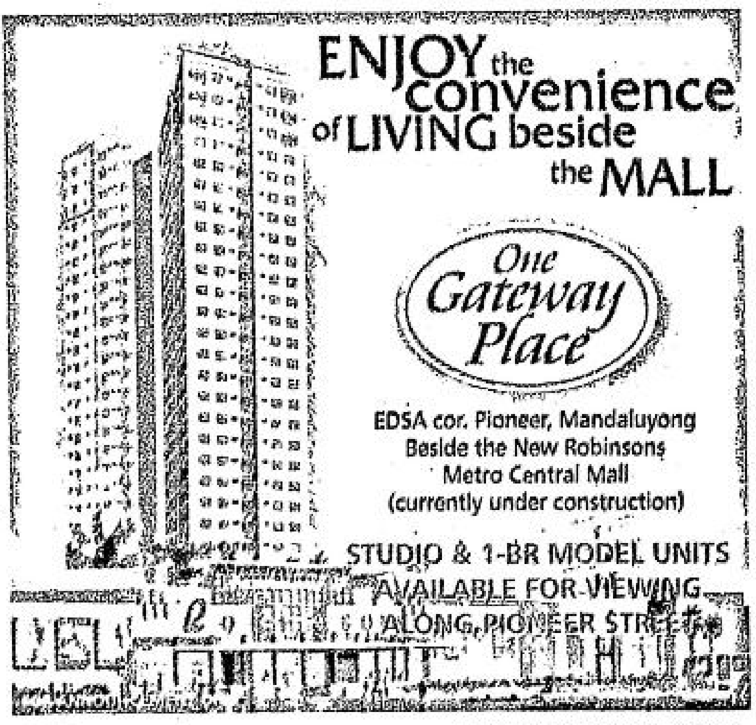

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AS OF MAY 12, 2003

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,500,000	Please call
2. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	630,000	570,000
3. CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	500,000	450,000
4. CAMP JOHN HAY	230,000	200,000
5. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB		120,000
6. CELEBRITY SPORTS PLAZA	180,000	170,000
7. CLUB FILIPINO	150,000	130,000
8. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	400,000	320,000
9. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250,000	220,000
10. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	10,200.00	
11. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,400,000	2,200,000
12. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF A/B	500,000/600,000	430,000
13. ORCHARD GOLF CLUB A/B/C	Please call	460,000
14. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200,000	
15. RIVIERA GOLF CLUB A/B/C	Please call	Please call
16. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,600,000	1,300,000
17. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF	800,000	680,000
18. TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF	720,000	700,000
19. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	135,000
20. VALLEY GOLF CLUB	300,000	260,000
21. WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	6,500,000	

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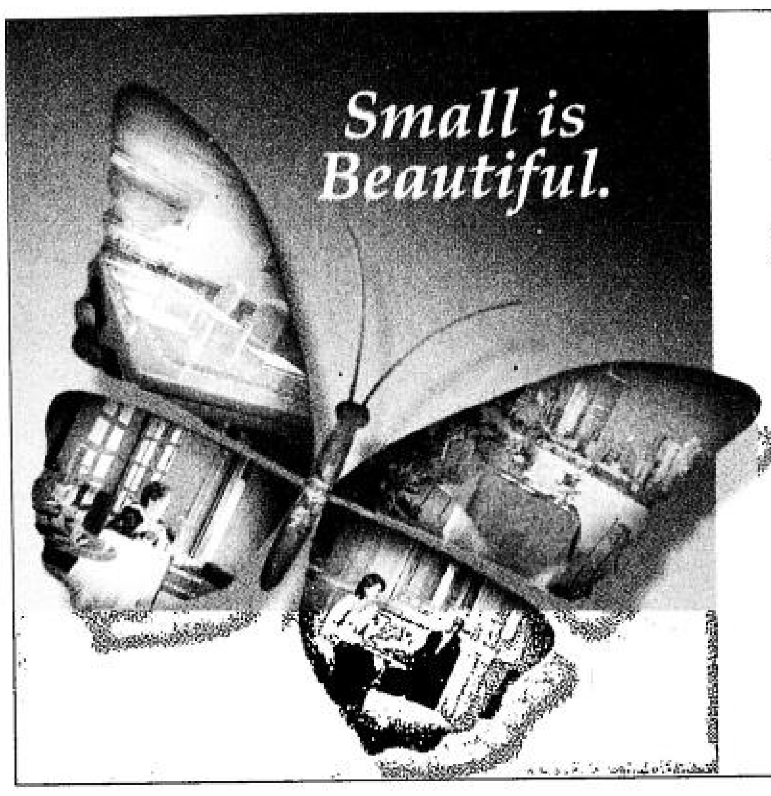
LETTY M. DELOS SANTOS MARKETING CONSULTANT
PAUL CORTEZ PRESIDENT
TEL. NOS. 8175655 / 8121066 / 8193560 / 7517982 CP#0917-8114892



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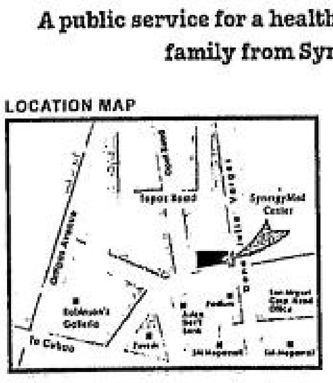

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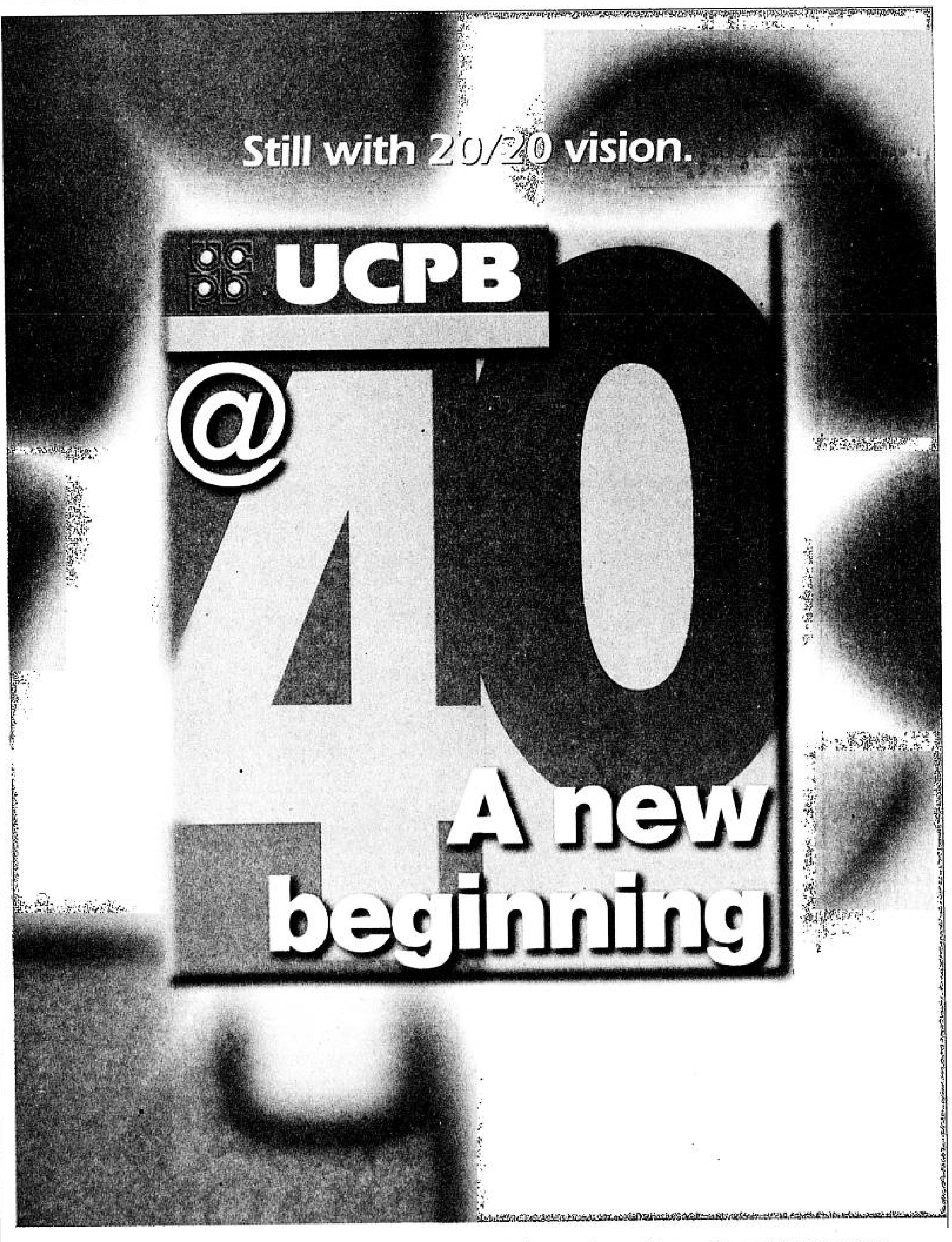

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Makati Shangri-La, Manila
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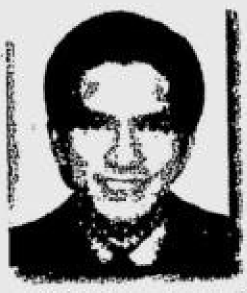
this is the Moment

Setting Industry Standards

BUSINESS PARTNER LEVEL

Vecina, Virginia S.
BP of the Year

Karon, Bai Ali S.
Mega Producer


Babao, Rhonald M.
Premier Producer

Altar, Christian Anthony E.
Goal Buster

Morales, Ma. Guillermina R.
Pacesetter

Sanorjo, Magdalena V.
6th Placer

DIVISION MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Macalintal, Alexander K.

ROOKIE BP OF THE YEAR

Karon, Bai Ali S.

TOP PERSONAL SELLERS

Macalintal, Lucila T.
Senior Business
Development Manager

Pinas, Esperanza B.
Business Development Manager

Messages

My warmest congratulations to the management and staff of Cocoplans, Inc., especially to the honorees on the occasion of the company's 8th Annual Performance Excellence (APEX) Awards Night with the theme "This is the Moment: Setting Industry Standards."

Indeed, the occasion is significant because it gives recognition to your sales associates' outstanding performance during this time when the highest sense of integrity and professionalism is required from industry members. It is worthy to note that the APEX awardees provided financial services to our kababayans through pre-need plans with utmost commitment and dedication to achieve excellence.

To all the awardees, I encourage you to continue striving for excellence while serving the needs of your clients. Your accomplishments deserve emulation among your peers and the pre-need industry.

Once again, congratulations!

Lilia R. Bautista
Lilia R. Bautista
Chairperson
Securities and Exchange Commission

Congratulations to all awardees of Cocoplans' 8th Annual Performance Excellence Awards!

Emerging from a very challenging year as awardees is truly an achievement for you and for our company. It is a manifestation of the partnership that binds you to deliver to every Filipino the secure future that our financial programs promise.

As you carry out your endeavors, you not only reach out to your countrymen. You contribute to the building of our nation by making sure today that the Filipinos of tomorrow will have the resources to accomplish the bigger, brighter dreams that the future holds. This is not a small task. Still, you are able to get this done. You smile at the enormity of your role in shaping the future, you face your growing hurdles, and you make things happen with zest. The mark of champions! The mark of Cocoplaners! With Business Associates like you, I look forward to many coming years of pre-need success.

Ramon C. Arceo, Jr.
Chairman
Cocoplans, Inc.

Warm greetings to my fellow Cocoplaners, and heartfelt congratulations to this year's APEX Awardees!

Our business environment has continued to grow tough. Competition and regulation have challenged our abilities and tested our will. Yet, in spite of all these, you were able to put in a creditable sales performance. Your determination to excel is worthy of emulation, especially at a time like ours.

It is also noteworthy that in such trying times, Cocoplans continues to be a reliable company. Over the years, our company has built promises to planholders on the solid foundations of integrity in operations, sincerity in every encounter, and passion to service more Filipinos. The stability of our company is without question. Cocoplans has, in fact, merited from the Securities and Exchange Commission a clean bill of corporate health. This should give us a reason to strive harder because we know we can hitch our dreams and those of our planholders' to Cocoplans. Continue to strive for excellence and continue to achieve your dreams!

Atty. Alfredo C. Tumacder, Jr.
Managing Director
Cocoplans, Inc

My most cordial greetings and congratulations to all the awardees of the 8th Annual Performance Excellence Awards! Your outstanding performance last year is the pride of our company.

In a challenging time of far-reaching changes, you showed your colleagues, your company, and the industry that with commitment, unity, and faith, big goals can be achieved. We take pride in you because you epitomize the indomitable attitude of Cocoplans. The entire organization continues to draw inspiration from the determined campaigns that you tirelessly undertake year after year.

Realizing the demands of being in the pre-need business, Cocoplans untiringly endeavors to be a company that looks after the interests of the public, opens up opportunities for professional advancement, and pursues relationships with its markets and its business associates for the long term. Cocoplans is here to stay in business for the public and for its business associates. Indeed, Cocoplans is here to nurture your dreams to reality.

Caesar T. Michelena
President
Cocoplans, Inc.

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ADB to extend $150-M financial sector loan to RP

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE ASIAN Development Bank has committed to provide the Philippines a $150-million non-bank financial sector loan this year.

Moinuddin Khaja, ADB director general for Southeast Asia, and ADB country director Tom Crouch met with Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho Monday afternoon for a regular quarterly update on the status of the country's ongoing arrangements with the ADB.

The ADB said the only program loan for the Philippines that would likely be approved this year would be the loan for non-bank financial institutions.

While a program loan meant the proceeds could be used by the government for any expenditure item, the approval and the release of the package would depend on improvements in the areas of anti-money laundering, insurance, stock market and other sectors of the capital market.

Crouch said the loan would be ready by the second semester and the first tranche equivalent to half the size of the facility could be released right after the ADB board approval.

He said the multilateral agency had to secure "some internal approvals" for the non-bank financial sector loan. Only after these approvals are secured that the ADB can finally negotiate with the Philippine government for the terms of the loan. The last step would be the submission of the loan to the ADB board for approval.

Camacho said the ADB also decided to hold its annual meeting in the Philippines on June 30 to be attended by ambassadors.

RP to seek wider access to US market

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr

THE PHILIPPINES will seek tariff perks for its exports of dried mangoes, pineapple juice, carrageenan and tuna to the US during the state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo this month.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas said the inclusion and reinstatement of these goods in the US General System of Preferences should push the Philippines' exports of these products to the US from $676 million in 2001 to over $1 billion.

Roxas noted that the Bush administration had pledged to the President during her US state visit in 2001 that it would lobby in the US Congress for an increase in the Philippines' GSP privileges to over $1 billion.

"A positive consideration of the Philippines' request will primarily benefit the small and medium enterprises engaged in the production of these products. The grant of duty free access will enhance their competitiveness in the US market that would lead to increased income and employment," Roxas said.

The US GSP program—which gives preferential treatment to approximately 4,100 products from 139 beneficiary countries—is used by Washington to create trade opportunities for allied developing countries and encouraging broad-based economic development. It is unilateral because beneficiary countries do not grant reciprocal tariff concessions to the United States.

The Philippines currently exports nearly $50 million worth of pineapple juice a year to the US and getting duty-free perks under the US GSP is likely to boost the commodity's sales. At present, only pineapple juice shipped from Africa and other least developed countries are eligible for US GSP perks.

Roxas said the Philippines would also bat for the waiver of quota limits on exports of brined or salted fish; dried guavas, mangoes and mangosteens; prepared or preserved papaya pulp; handbags of abaca; twine, cordage and rope, and sports gloves.

Matsushita sees 10% sales growth

MATSUSHITA Electric Philippines Corp. expects to double its sales growth this year largely with its brand unification program and introduction of new consumer electronic products.

National Panasonic Sales Philippines (NPSP) president Rodolfo G. Perez said the company was projecting a 10-percent growth in sales to P7.92 billion this year from P7.2 billion a year ago. Last year's sales grew by 5 percent. Roughly 70 percent of the products sold here were manufactured locally.

Perez said sales were likely to get a boost from the company's worldwide brand unification wherein it would drop the National brand name (except in Japan) and retain only the Panasonic brand name starting October this year.

This means that Matsushita's refrigerators, air conditioners, and washing machines in the Philippines would be sold under the Panasonic brand name which is currently limited to television sets and stereo components. The Panasonic brand name is used Matsushita in 90 percent of all the products it sells outside of Japan. *Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

NLRC dismisses case vs GMA-7

CITING lack of jurisdiction, the National Labor Relations Commission on April 28 junked an illegal dismissal case filed against GMA Network Inc., GMA Marketing and Productions Inc. and GMA chair, president and CEO Felipe Gozon by former network executive Roberto Barreiro.

Labor Arbiter Donato Quinto Jr. granted the network's motion to dismiss the case, saying it was "an intra-corporate controversy, and jurisdiction properly pertains to the regional trial court, and certainly not by the commission."

Barreiro, in his complaint, accused GMA Network of illegally dismissing him and demanded that he be reinstated. He also sought payment for damages and lawyer's fees.

GMA Network filed a motion to dismiss the case, saying that the NLRC lacked jurisdiction over it as Barreiro's complaint involved "the removal or dismissal of an elected officer by the board of directors, which is outside the jurisdiction of the commission, but within the exclusive original jurisdiction of the regional trial courts pursuant to R.A. 8799, or the Securities Regulation Code." *Abigail L. Ho*

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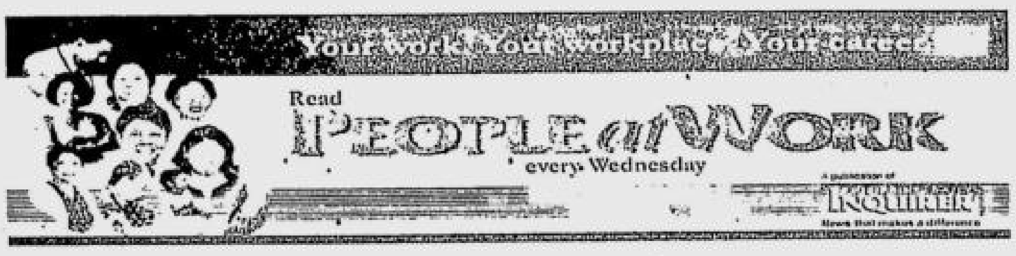

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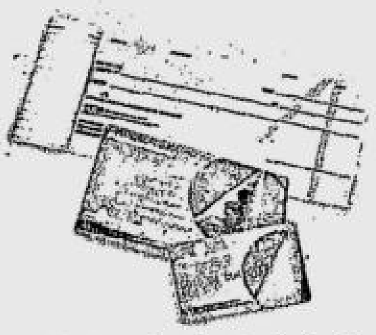

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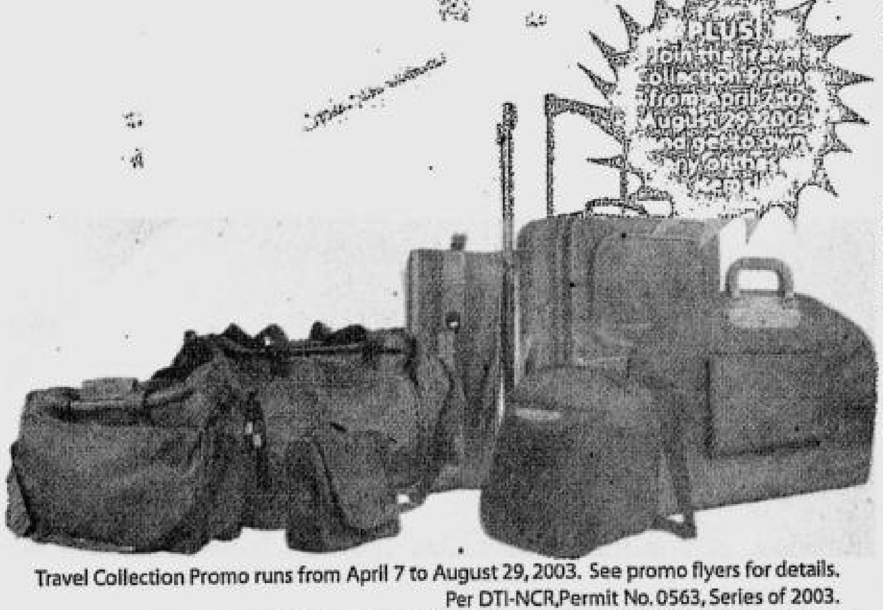

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Auto tax reform seen to cause death of the AUV

By Raul C. Dancel
Contributor

(Conclusion)

SPECIAL REPORT

AS early as 1996, the seating capacity rule, which exempts from excise taxes utility vehicles that can seat 10 or more, was already being singled out as a tax loophole that needed to be plugged.

In 1996, then Finance Undersecretary Milwida Guevara warned that the existing motor vehicle tax system had many distortions and loopholes, citing specifically the 10-seater rule.

Guevarra said the system provided opportunity for some to avoid paying taxes. "It is unfair that Mercedes Benz vans are, technically exempted from excise tax because of its seating capacity, while the small Kia Pride, which is less expensive, is not," she said.

Finance Assistant Secretary Gil Betran also argued back then against the seating capacity rule, saying it was inappropriate as a basis for taxation because any assembler could just add seats if only to avoid the tax.

Guevara's and Beltran's words would prove to be portentous. Seven years later, one assembler added seats to one of its models, and what until then had been a steady tax boat would never be the same again.

Identity crisis

Last year, the Board of Investments reclassified the Honda CR-V, regarded as a sport-utility vehicle anywhere else in the world, as an Asian utility vehicle (AUV). The clincher was the addition of seats at the back of the vehicle that supposedly allowed it to carry 10 people and qualified it for tax exemptions under the seating capacity rule.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. had been paying an excise tax of P200,000 for each CR-V it sold since its introduction in the late 1990s.

When it was reclassified as an AUV, the CR-V became the hottest selling vehicle on the market. With 7,000 units sold in 2002 from just 1,502 units in 2001, the government lost around P1.4 billion in excise taxes that Honda should have paid.

Other assemblers protested the reclassification, arguing that the CR-V could not possibly seat 10 people. They also pointed out that in other countries where the CR-V was being assembled or marketed, its specifications only indicated a seating capacity of five.

Congress got into the act, with two opposition senators calling for an investigation of the CR-V's reclassification, and the Department of Finance and Bureau of Internal Revenue found a very good reason to whip out Revenue Regulation 4-2003.

Against recommendation

Documents from the Board of Investments showed that a review committee rejected in late 2001 Honda's application to reclassify the CR-V into an AUV.

In a November 2001 memorandum to the BOI management committee, the BOI engineering industries department warned that the government would incur some P2.385 billion in foregone revenues should it reclassify the CR-V and give Honda a number of incentives.

The losses covered some P1.865 billion from taxes based on projected sales of 8,000 units and P520.4 million in duties.

The EID also noted that the CR-V did not match the configuration of an AUV.

Despite the EID's warning, however, the BOI approved Honda's petition a few months later.

Since then, Honda has sold 7,125 CR-Vs that the Senate said had cost the government some P1.5 billion in foregone revenues from excise taxes.

Honda maintained that the estimates were erroneous and misleading because it would have sold much less than what it chalked up last year had its CR-V been sold as a sport-utility vehicle and subjected to taxes worth P200,000 each.

The AUV

Some have argued that it's not entirely Honda's fault. The situation has always been precarious, they say. Honda just tipped the scale over.

Asian utility vehicles have always enjoyed a special place in the local auto industry because they come very close to hitting a major goal in the government's commercial vehicle development program: to "provide suitable and affordable means for the transport of goods, services and passengers."

They are the closest thing to a truly Filipino car, and they have sustained another industry—the $800-million auto parts industry—as nearly half the components used in them were coming from local suppliers.

The AUV has been a prominent feature of the local auto industry over the last 20 years.

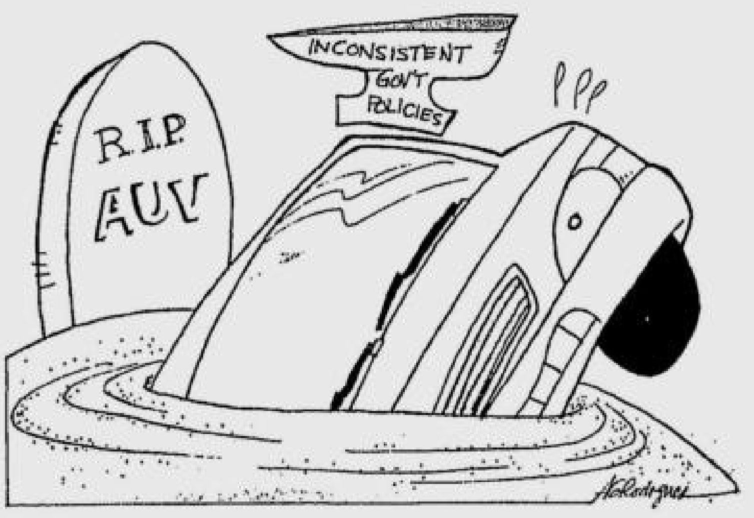
In the 1960s and 1970s, the AUV—a concept introduced by Ford Motor Co. with the "Fiera"—was the toast of Asia. Students from South Korea would visit the facilities of Delta Motor Corp. to get a peek of what they saw then as the seeds of an Asian auto industry outside Japan.

Back then, the Philippines was already developing the prototype of the Filipino car—the "Sasakyang Katutubong Bayan" or the Sakbayan and a truck counterpart, the Trakbayan.

Other assemblers would come up with their own models: General Motors with the Harabas, Chrysler/Mitsubishi with Cimarron, and Toyota with the Tamaraw.

The AUV would evolve through the years to fit what many thought the country needed: a cheap and reliable means of transportation that used mostly local parts.

The AUV was being used mainly by taxi, school bus and shuttle service operators and by start-up businessmen. It was truly a "people's car."



A profile of the utility vehicle buyers and users prepared in 1997 by Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. showed that 40 percent of total AUV buyers were employees, 53 percent of whom had an average income of P300,000 a year, 30 percent were first-time owners and 42 percent bought the vehicle for business.

Tax drain

The AUV's usefulness, however, is now being questioned, with some arguing that it has become a tax drain.

Sen. Ralph Recto, main sponsor of Senate Bill 2517, said "inconsistencies in the present tax system became ineffective means of raising government income."

"This is evidenced by a decline in excise tax revenues as a percentage of automobile sales from a high of 9.4 percent in 1997 to 6.7 percent in 2000. This is due to the growing share of excise tax-exempt segments to the total motor vehicle sales of which, the most popular sector is the AUVs," he said.

Over the years, Recto said, the auto industry has produced more tax-exempt vehicles. From a little over 10 percent of motor vehicles sold from 1995 to 1997, the share of the tax-exempt segments has grown to 68 percent as of the first quarter of the year.

The AUV segment alone has grown to more than 30 percent during the first quarter from only about 10 percent in 1997, he said. The share of passenger cars, which are slapped with excise taxes, has dwindled to less than 40 percent.

The Department of Finance is confident that with either the excise tax bills or its own revenue regulation, the government will be able to earn an additional P1.2 billion in taxes from the local auto industry.

The projected P1.2-billion income, however, may not come from the new taxation scheme but essentially due to expectations of improving vehicle sales this year.

Flaws

There are, however, some flaws in the finance department's assumptions.

Its simulations assume that car sales will grow by 36 percent on account of the lower retail prices. Even if passenger car sales grow by 36 percent, however, the government's tax take from compact and subcompact sales will fall by P1.34 billion because of the lower tax rate.

The finance department is assuming that this decline will be offset by the higher tax rate that will be imposed on AUVs, but it is also assuming that AUV sales, despite the higher retail prices, will be flat.

Analysts from the Center for Research and Communication argue that AUV sales are unlikely to stay flat once the new excise tax rate is imposed because the higher resulting prices of AUV—sat nearly P1 million—will discourage people from buying AUVs.

They add that the domestic economy will lose more in terms of employment and productivity if the excise tax bills are passed.

"The implication is that there is a net welfare loss—output and employment that are forever lost—to the economy when the tax rate on AUVs is put in place," CRC said in an executive summary. "It does not include the forward linkages yet to wholesalers and retailers."

CRC estimates that the net welfare loss may reach P2 billion and 1,000 jobs at a tax rate of 10 percent for AUVs.

Consistency

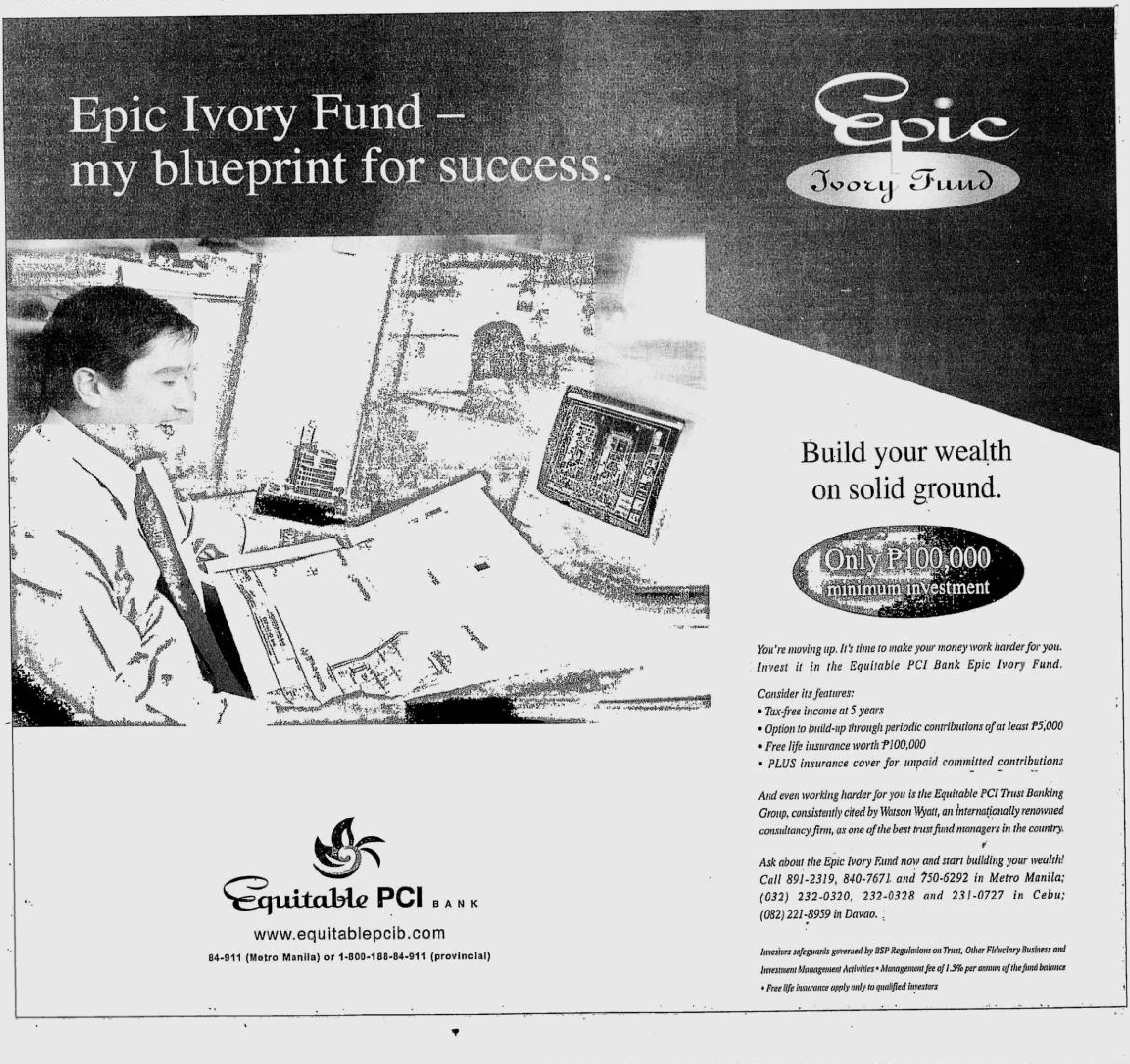
From sharing with India the distinction of being Asia's most promising in the 1960s, the Philippine car assembly industry is on the brink of collapsing because the government has never been consistent about what it really wants for the industry.

"One thing stands out from the history of the car assembly history: the government has never had a consistent vision and program for the development of the industry," Rene Ofreneo, convenor of the Fair Trade Alliance, said.

The idea of producing a Philippine-made car inspired the Marcos administration to launch the Progressive Car Manufacturing Program (PCMP) in the 1970s.

The program was meant to lessen the local car assembly industry's dependence on imported completely knocked-down parts. It was supposed to help deepen the structure of the auto assembly industry that, like other local industries bred by import substitutions of the 1950s, was depen-

AUTO/ B8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INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES
9th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Pasay City
21 – 24 May 2003

Theme: "IBP: RAISING THE BAR OF COMPETENCE AND INTEGRITY"

National President Teofilo S. Pilando and Host Governors Santos V. Catubay, Jr. of Greater Manila Region and Rogelio N. Velarde of Southern Luzon Region invite all lawyers to attend the 9th National Convention at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), on 21 - 24 May 2003 and earn **eighteen (18) MCLE units**. The theme of the Convention is "*IBP: Raising the Bar of Competence and Integrity*". The Keynote Speaker is Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The Guests of Honor during the Convention are Supreme Court Justice Reynato S. Puno, Secretary of Justice Simeon A. Datumanong, Senate President Franklin M. Drilon, Speaker Jose De Venecia, Senator Edgardo J. Angara, Senator Francis N. Pangilinan and Court Administrator Presbitero J. Velasco, Jr.

Judges, prosecutors, and clerks of court have been authorized to attend the Convention on official time/business. Delegates can avail of the pre-registration rate which is P4,000 until May 15, 2003. Starting May 16, 2003 and until the on-site registration on May 21, 2003, the registration fee is P5,000.00.

On May 21, 2003, a fellowship night will be held at the PICC Reception Hall. Senator Francis N. Pangilinan will deliver an inspirational talk. The Guest of Honor and Speaker is Secretary of Justice Simeon A. Datumanong. The highlight is a competition on cultural presentations to be participated in by the nine (9) regions of the IBP. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners. Another exciting portion of the Program is the raffle of prizes from various sponsors/donors.□

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PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

21 May 2003 (Wednesday)

8:00 - 6:00 p.m.	REGISTRATION	*Registration Center*
6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	FELLOWSHIP NIGHT	*Reception Hall (Filipiniana)*
Inspirational Talk	HON. FRANCIS P.N. PANGILINAN *Senator*	
Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker	HON. SANTOS V. CATUBAY, JR. *Governor, Greater Manila*	
Address	HON. SIMEON A. DATUMANONG *Secretary of Justice, Department of Justice*	

22 May 2003 (Thursday)

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	CONTINUATION OF REGISTRATION *Registration Center*	
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.	OPENING CEREMONIES	*Plenary Hall*
	Call to Order	HON. TEOFILO S. PILANDO, JR. *National President*
	Welcome and Symbolic Presentation of the Key of the City	HON. WENCESLAO B. TRINIDAD *Mayor, Pasay City*
	Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker	HON. TEOFILO S. PILANDO, JR. *National President*
	Address	HE GLORIA M. MACAPAGAL-ARROYO *President, Republic of the Philippines*
11:00 - 12:00 p.m.	LUNCH	*Reception Hall*
12:00 - 12:05 p.m.	Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker	HON. JOSE ANSELMO I. CADIZ *Executive Vice President and Governor, Bicolandia*
12:05 - 12:35 p.m.	Address	HON. REYNATO S. PUNO *Associate Justice, Supreme Court*
	MCLE SESSIONS 1-4	*Plenary Hall*
12:55 - 1:00 p.m.	Briefing on MCLE Rules	ATTY. MYRNA S. FELICIANO *Executive Director, MCLE*
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.		STRENGTHENING THE INDEPENDENCE AND EFFICIENCY OF THE JUDICIARY *(Reforms in Specific Areas of Law)* HON. ADOLFO S. AZCUNA *Associate Justice, Supreme Court*
2:30 - 4:00 p.m.		CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT *(Reforms in Specific Areas of Law)* HON. ZENAIDA N. ELEPAÑO *SC Senior Deputy Court Administrator*
4:15 - 5:45 p.m.		THE LAWYER AND GOOD MORAL CHARACTER *(Legal Ethics)* HON. HECTOR L. HOFILEÑA *CA Associate Justice (Ret.)*
5:45 - 7:15 p.m.		ETHICAL DIMENSION IN THE AVAILMENT OF LEGAL REMEDIES AND COURT PROCESSES *(Legal Ethics)* HON. HILARION L. AQUINO *CA Associate Justice (Ret.)*
7:15 p.m.	BENCH AND BAR DIALOGUE	
	Opening Statement	HON. SANTOS V. CATUBAY, JR. *Governor, Greater Manila*
	Paper Presentations and Reactions	
	I.BAR	ATTY. LEONARD S. DE VERA *De Vera Law Office*
	Reactor	HON. EDWIN A. VILLASOR *Executive Judge, RTC, Pasig City*
	II.PROSECUTION	HON. JOVENCITO R. ZUÑO *Chief State Prosecutor, DOJ*
	Reactor	HON. SIXTO C. MARELLA, JR. *Executive Judge, RTC, Makati City*
	III.BENCH	HON. MARINO M. DE LA CRUZ, JR. *President, Philippine Judges Association*
	Reactor	ATTY. MANUEL B. TOMACRUZ *Tomacruz Law Office*
8:15 - 8:20 p.m.	Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker	HON. LEONARDO E. JIZ *Governor, Western Visayas*
8:20 - 8:50 p.m.	Address	HON. PRESBITERO J. VELASCO, JR. *SC Court Administrator*
9:20 - 11:00 p.m.		BALLROOM DANCING

23 May 2003 (Friday)

	MCLE SESSION 5	**(CLUSTERS A - D)**
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Cluster A (Forum)	EXTRADITION LAWS AND TREATIES *(International Legal Processes)* DEAN RAUL C. PANGALANGAN
	Cluster B (Press Center)	JURISPRUDENCE ON CURRENT TRENDS IN ELECTION LAWS *(Updates on Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence)* ATTY. ALBERTO C. AGRA COMPUTERIZATION OF ELECTIONS AND THE LAW ON ABSENTEE VOTING *(Updates on Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence)* HON. FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR. *COMELEC Commissioner*
	Cluster C (Meeting Rms. 2 & 3)	INSOLVENCY AND BUSINESS REHABILITATION *(Updates on Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence)* ATTY. DANILO L. CONCEPCION *Former Commissioner, SEC* INTERIM RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR INTRA-CORPORATE CONTROVERSIES *(Updates on Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence)* ATTY. FRANCISCO ED. LIM
	Cluster D (Meeting Rm. 5)	THE ART AND SCIENCE OF PLEADING PREPARATION *(Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy)* USEC. RODEL A. CRUZ *Office of the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel*
10:15 - 12:15 p.m.	**MCLE SESSION 6**	**(CLUSTERS A - D)**
	Cluster A (Forum)	THE ART OF DIRECT AND CROSS-EXAMINATIONS *(Trial and Pre-Trial Skills)* ATTY. TERESITA J. HERBOSA
	Cluster B (Press Center)	IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMES AND MEASURES TO COMBAT IT *(International Law and International Conventions)* AMBASSADOR RAUL I. GOCO
	Cluster C (Meeting Rms. 2&3)	PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW ISSUES IN FAMILY LAW: VALIDITY OF FOREIGN MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE *(International Law and International Conventions)* ATTY. ELIZABETH A. PANGALANGAN
	Cluster D (Meeting Rm. 5)	TRADE REMEDIES *(Law and Economics)* ATTY. SUSAN D. VILLANUEVA
12:15 p.m.	LUNCH	*Reception Hall*
	Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker	HON. PEDRO S. PRINCIPE
	Address	HON. FRANKLIN M. DRILON *Senate President*
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	**MCLE SESSION 7**	**(CLUSTERS A - D)**
	Cluster A (Forum)	THE LAWS OF NATURE AND OTHER STORIES; HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND RELEASE OF BIOLOGICAL ORGANISMS *(Environmental Law)* ATTY. ANTONIO A. OPOSA, JR.
	Cluster B (Press Center)	THE BASIC NOTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION *(Alternative Dispute Resolution)* ATTY. MARIO E. VALDERRAMA THE SCOPE OF JUDICIAL REVIEW IN AN ARBITRATION AWARD *(Alternative Dispute Resolution)* DEAN CUSTODIO O. PARLADE
	Cluster C (Meeting Rms. 2&3)	THE INTRICACIES OF THE LAW ON ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING *(Updates on Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence)* ATTY. MERVYN G. ENCANTO
	Cluster D (Meeting Rm. 5)	CHALLENGES TO LEGAL EDUCATION IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT *(Reforms in Specific Areas of Law)* DEAN PACIFICO A. AGABIN
3:45 - 5:45 p.m.	**MCLE SESSION 8**	**(CLUSTERS A - D)**
	Cluster A (Forum)	INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND THEIR EFFECTS ON DOMESTIC LAWS *(International Law and International Conventions)* DEAN MERLIN M. MAGALLONA
	Cluster B (Press Center)	THE MEDIA - AN AID OR AN IMPEDIMENT TO JUSTICE *(Law as a Means of Social Control)* ATTY. NAPOLEON G. RAMA *Publisher, Manila Bulletin*
	Cluster C (Meeting Rms. 2&3)	MODERN TOOLS OF LEGAL RESEARCH *(Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy)* ATTY. MA. LOURDES A. SERENO
	Cluster D (Meeting Rm. 5)	INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS *(Updates on Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence)* ATTY. SEDFREY M. CANDELARIA
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	DINNER	*Reception Hall*
	AWARDS NIGHT	
	Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker	HON. EMIL L. ONG *Governor, Eastern Visayas*
	Address	HON. EDGARDO J. ANGARA *Senator*
	AWARDING CEREMONIES AND BALLROOM DANCING	

24 May 2003 (Saturday)

8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	**MCLE SESSION 9**	**(CLUSTERS A - D)**
	Cluster A (Forum)	RULES ON THE EXAMINATION OF A CHILD WITNESS, RULES ON DIVERSION AND COMMITMENT OF CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW AND THE NEW RULES ON ADOPTION *(Updates on Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence)* HON. NIMFA C. VILCHES *Presiding Judge, Branch 48, RTC-Manila* CHILD MALTREATMENT MEDICO-LEGAL TERMINOLOGY AND INTERPRETATION OF MEDICAL FINDINGS *(Trial and Pre-Trial Skills)* DR. BERNADETTE J. MADRID
	Cluster B (Press Center)	INFLUENCING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS *(Updates on Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence)* HON. DIDAGEN P. DILANGALEN *Congressman*
	Cluster C (Meeting Rms.2&3)	PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY *(Updates on Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence)* HON. VICTOR C. FERNANDEZ *Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon*
	Cluster D (Meeting Rm. 5)	INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PIRACY *(Updates on Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence)* ATTY. ALONZO U. ANCHETA
10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	**MCLE SESSION 10**	**(CLUSTERS A - D)**
	Cluster A (Forum)	SUSPENDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE NAME OF SECURITY *(Law as a Means of Social Control)* GEN. ALEXANDER PAR AGUIRRE (Ret.)
	Cluster B (Press Center)	LEGAL WRITING AND ORAL ADVOCACY HON. HUGO E. GUTIERREZ, JR. *Associate Justice (Ret.) Supreme Court*
	Cluster C (Meeting Rms.2&3)	PRESENTATION OF FORENSIC EVIDENCE *(Trial and Pre-Trial Skills)* DR. RAQUEL B. DEL ROSARIO-FORTUN PRESENTATION OF DNA ANALYSIS AS EVIDENCE *(Trial and Pre-Trial Skills)* DR. MA. CORAZON A. DE UNGRIA
	Cluster D (Meeting Room 5)	LEGAL ISSUES ARISING OUT OF TECHNOLOGY *(Technology and the Law)* ATTY. IVAN JOHN E. UY
12:15 p.m.	LUNCH	*Reception Hall*
	Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker	HON. ESTER L. PISCOSO-FLOR *Governor, Northern Luzon*
	Address	HON. JOSE C. DE VENECIA, JR. *Speaker, House of the Representatives*
1:50 - 2:30 p.m.	CLOSING PLENARY SESSION	*Reception Hall*
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.	DISTRIBUTION OF CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE	

Hotel and Transportation

Hotel reservations can be made with Traders Hotel, Hyatt Regency Manila, Century Park Hotel, Pius XII Catholic Center, and Bayview Park Hotel at discounted rates. For details, please contact Atty. Rose Reyes, tel. no. 892-1598.

Cebu Pacific Air has extended to the participants in the National Convention a fifty per cent (50 %) discount on roundtrip plane tickets for those traveling from Cebu City, Cagayan de Oro City, Kalibo, Roxas, Iloilo, Tacloban City, Davao City, Dumaguete City, Bacolod, Zamboanga City, Puerto Princesa City, and Butuan City. For particulars, please contact Ms. Malou Badong, Sales Executive of Cebu Pacific, tel. no. 851-9419.

Air Philippines has also offered convention rates for delegates coming from Tuguegarao, Visayas Region, and Mindanao Region. For reservations, please contact (632) 855-9000, secretary of Patria T. Chiong, SVP Administration/Marketing and Sales, tel. no. (632) 851-7601.

The official transportation for passengers using the old domestic terminal is MIA Transport Service Cooperative for which a 5 % discount will be given to IBP delegates while at the Centennial Airport, the official transport is Alamo Transport Leasing Services, Inc. which is giving a ten (10) per cent discount to IBP delegates. Coasters will also be available the whole day of 21 May 2003 at both airports to transport for free the delegates to the convention site and to their hotels. For further information, please access the IBP Website @ www.ibp.org.ph.□

'Fizzer' computer virus spreads, infects e-mail

LOS ANGELES—A new and complex computer virus called "Fizzer" spread rapidly across the Internet on Monday, infecting computers across the world via e-mail and the file-swapping service Kazaa, computer security experts said.

Businesses in Asia were the first to report the attack, followed by reports of tens of thousands of infections in Europe, and experts were expecting more cases in North America.

"It first appeared last Thursday and started out rather slowly," said Vincent Gullotto, who heads up an anti-virus response Team at Network Associates Inc. in Beaverton, Oregon.

Fizzer was a complex virus that combined previously known tactics from other malicious viruses, Gullotto said.

There was no threat that Fizzer would cause widespread damage similar to the disruption caused by the "SQL Slammer" in January, which bogged down computer networks across the globe, Gullotto said.

Instead, Fizzer appears as an e-mail with an attention-grabbing subject line that is activated once a user opens an attached file.

From there, it infects the shared filed folder for Kazaa, the popular program that lets users swap songs and files anonymously over the Internet.

That allows Fizzer to spread to other computers, finds information for other contacts in Microsoft Corp.'s Outlook e-mail program and mail itself to more people.

British-based virus detection firm MessageLabs recorded 17,765 cases in 24 hours. *Reuters*

SARS poses little risk to Asian business activity

SINGAPORE—The SARS outbreak will pose little risk to Asian regional business activity in the long run but investors may be more cautious about putting their funds into China, a property group's report said Tuesday.

"There is little doubt that economic activity in the Asia Pacific region will return to normal with possibly higher costs because of extra precautions and efforts needed to contain the virus," said Yu Lai Boon, head of research at property consultancy Jones Lang LaSalle.

Singapore and Hong Kong, the two economies most affected by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) apart from China, will recover by the fourth quarter.

But it will likely be bleak in China, which has come under criticism for initially covering up the epidemic, the property consultant said in the report.

"The SARS outbreak in China will have an effect on investors' expected risk weighted returns in this country and may discourage them from commiting to investments too hastily," it said.

"On a longer term, businesses are likely to re-examine the risks of over concentrating investments in China," it said.

China has the highest death toll with at least 250 fatalities and more than 5,000 cases of infections, also the largest in the world.

The firm said China, along with Taiwan, runs the highest risk of falling under a "protracted contagion" scenario where "SARS will continue to spread until the end of the year with no real indications that the disease has been sufficiently contained."

For Hong Kong and Singapore, where the SARS outbreak appears to be stabilizing, the two cities fall under the "90-Day Fever" scenario where "a swift containment of the spread of the SARS virus" by the end of June is expected," the report said.

"Under this scenario, the economy will recover from the outbreak of SARS and business activity will return to normal by the fourth quarter," it said. *AFP*

A MASKED investor watches the monitors showing the stocks index. Taiwan share prices rose 1.73 percent Tuesday on Wall Street's overnight gains and extended foreign buying, but gains were limited by reports of new SARS cases, dealers said. The weighted index closed up 73.57 points at 4,334.59 on turnover of 52.51 billion Taiwan dollars (1.51 billion US). AFP

Japan machinery orders up, but firms see tumble ahead

TOKYO—Orders for new machinery at Japanese firms posted an unexpected rebound in March, but companies expected falls ahead for the key gauge of capital spending as the once bright export outlook darkens.

The Cabinet Office said on Tuesday that core private-sector machinery orders, which exclude those for ships and equipment, rose 3.8 percent in March from a month earlier on a seasonally adjusted basis.

That compared with a median forecast for a drop of 3.6 percent in a Reuters poll of 20 economists last week and a fall of 6.8 percent in February.

Looking ahead, though, companies forecast that orders would tumble a record 10.5 percent in the April-June quarter from the previous three months, underscoring concerns that export strength—a rare bright spot for the stagnant economy—is fading.

"It probably reflected strong concerns about the export environment and uncertainty over the US economic outlook," said Yoshihiko Senoo, head of statistics at the Cabinet Office's research arm.

He added that concerns about the impact of the SARS virus were not reflected in the data because the figures were collected by the end of March. Economists said the weak forecast was a worrying sign that the economy could be losing what little steam it has.

"The April-June forecast is suggesting a slowdown across the board. Although the March figures are up a little bit, I would prefer trusting the forecast at this point, given all the uncertainties," said Toshikimi Kaneki, an economist at Sumitomo Trust and Banking.

The ministry left its assessment of capital spending unchanged, saying there were signs of recovery but that caution was needed because of the poor April-June forecast outlook.

"We cannot give an assessment for the outlook now ... We will have to take a look at the actual numbers," Senoo said, adding that concerns about the war in Iraq, which began in March, likely had a large impact on the forecast.

Steady corporate profits resulting from a recent rise in exports and cost-cutting efforts have supported capital expenditure, but firms have mainly been replacing existing facilities rather than expanding them. *Reuters*

Investments in China slowed in April

BEIJING—Foreign direct investment in China rose 51 percent in the first four months of this year, the Commerce Ministry said on Tuesday, but growth in April was much slower as SARS spooked investors.

Actual foreign direct investment, or FDI, in the first four months was $17.8 billion, the ministry said on its foreign investment Web site.

In April alone, China attracted $4.74 billion in actual FDI.

While that was up 37.2 percent from a year earlier, it was a sharp slowdown from the 57 percent year-on-year growth in the first three months of 2003.

A Reuters poll released this week showed that economists had expected April FDI growth to slow to 36 percent. FDI in March alone was $5.6 billion.

"I think the SARS impact on actual FDI will be more severe starting from this month, or even over the next couple months," said Chen Xingdong, an economist with investment bank BNP Paribas Peregrine in Beijing.

The slowdown came as the official Xinhua news agency said China's economy was facing its toughest challenge since the Asian financial crisis struck five years ago.

FDI is an important source of growth for China's economy and grew 12 percent to $53 billion last year as foreign firms moved to tap its deep pool of cheap labor and vast potential market.

The outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, which has killed more than 250 people and infected more than 5,000 in China, is believed to have hit retail sales and economists are watching carefully for how investment, manufacturing and exports might be affected.

Analysts said that if SARS were contained soon, investors would return later in the year. But if the crisis dragged on, they may seek out other places to put their money.

"The negative impact from the epidemic will be seen in an all-round way, as many foreign investors are expected to delay their projects in China, or even switch some investments to other countries like India to diversify the risks," said an analyst with Bank of China International in Beijing. *Reuters*

S.Korea cuts rates to counter slowdown

SEOUL—South Korea on Tuesday cut its key interest rate to head off an economic slowdown aggravated by tensions over North Korea's nuclear weapons drive and the SARS epidemic.

The Bank of Korea lowered its call rate target for May by 0.25 percentage points to 4.0 percent after holding the key overnight interbank borrowing rate unchanged for the past 11 months.

Bank of Korea governor Park Seung said the central bank's Monetary Policy Committee had opted for stimulating the economy despite concerns over rising property prices and real estate speculation.

South Korea needs a GDP growth rate of at least four percent to create new jobs and maintain a stable job market and the cut in the call rate was for that purpose, Park said.

The central bank recently cut its forecast for 2003 GDP growth to 4.1 percent from 5.7 percent to reflect weaker-than-expected consumption and investment and the negative impact of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) on exports.

"In order to protect jobs, there is no other choice but to lower the rate," Park said.

Calls for a boost for the economy had gained momentum as fears over inflationary pressure eased, with the annual growth of the consumer price index falling to 3.7 percent in April from 4.5 percent in March.

Oil prices are stabilizing and the current account balance is expected to shift back into the black in May for the first time since October, giving further room to lower interest rates, Park noted.

He said there had been a hectic exchange of opinions at the Monetary Policy Committee over whether rates should be cut at a time when property prices are rising amid speculative investment in real estate.

Park said that rising property prices would be better dealt with by taking administrative measures, including more efficient taxation on speculative investment. *AFP*

Auto tax reform seen to cause death . . .

From page B6

dent on imported parts, components and technical processes. Completely built-up units (CBUs) were banned to protect the PCMP and its participants.

The program was supposed to be limited to five participants, but the Marcos administration allowed France's Renault and Germany's Daimler Benz to import and distribute CBUs. More changes as to who could join the program were introduced in the 1980s and 1990s.

In 1990, for instance, the car development program allowed the entry of new carmakers under "People's Car" program. This opened the door to Honda Motor Co., Kia Motors, Norkis-Gurkel, Fiat and Daihatsu.

Two years later, the car development program was again amended to allow the assembly of cars with an engine displacement greater than 2,800 cc. This paved the way for Sweden's Volvo.

Fickle cover

The government has also been inconsistent with its policies on protecting the industry.

In 1980, the CBU ban was replaced with tariffs that quickly deteriorated as part of the Philippines' commitments under the World Bank's structural adjustment program. In 1981, car tariffs went down to 70 percent, then to 50 percent in 1982, to 40 percent in 1993 and to 3 percent within Asean.

Tariffs on CKDs went down even faster, dropping to 20 percent in 1993 and further to 10 percent in 1995 before hitting 3 percent in 1996. With very low tariffs and the general perception that imported parts and components were much better in quality than locally produced ones, imported parts and components began displacing the locals, putting in peril the "progressive" intent of the car development program. In 1998, the tariff for CKD packages was raised to 7 percent and then to 10 percent in 1999.

"It is fairly obvious that the dream to develop a Filipino car or to produce a car with as much as 80 percent local content will remain a dream. It is also obvious that joblessness in the country is not due to Filipino indolence but to the zig-zagging implementation of development programs and the utter lack of an industrial vision on the part of the economic policymakers," Ofreneo said.

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CEO firings rise as stock prices drop

NEW YORK—A growing number of chief executives were shown the door last year, as sputtering stock prices and other land mines weakened job security in corner offices around the world, according to a new study by Booz Allen Hamilton.

Of the 253 CEO departures last year examined in the study, "involuntary successions" were up 70 percent from 2001.

Meanwhile, the total number of CEO changes grew only 10 percent, largely because of the huge drop-off in merger activity, a key driver of CEO turnover.

Performance-related terminations reached a record in 2002, according to the McLean, Virginia, consulting firm, accounting for nearly 40 percent of all the CEO turnover in the survey.

"Shareholders are holding CEOs' feet to fire for performance more than ever before, as measured by returns to shareholders," said Chuck Lucier, senior vice president emeritus of Booz Allen Hamilton.

Booz Allen said it studied 253 CEO departures last year at the world's 2,500 largest publicly traded corporations in terms of market capitalization at the start of 2002.

The consulting firm evaluated both company performance and events surrounding the departures.

For historical context, the findings were compared with those of similar surveys in 1995, 1998, 2000 and 2001.

"First and foremost, there is a burning platform if you are not delivering," Lucier said. "Years ago it was possible for a CEO to remain in office for a long time, even if you were not doing well. People used to talk about the imperial CEO—those days are gone." *Reuters*

Oil up on Saudi bombings

SINGAPORE—Oil prices jumped more than 1.5 percent on Tuesday after a series of bombs ripped through Western residential compounds in Riyadh, raising concerns of more attacks in a volatile region.

But dealers said price reaction was likely to be tempered by downbeat fundamental factors, with the International Energy Agency (IEA) expected to trim its oil demand forecast for 2003 when it releases its monthly oil market report later on Tuesday.

US light crude climbed to a session peak at $27.81 a barrel, marking a gain of 46 cents. London's Brent crude climbed 50 cents to $25.39 a barrel.

"The bombings bring uncertainty. Saudi is the biggest producer of oil and any attack on the oil sector would be a disaster. Will there be more attacks and where?" said Katsunori Watanabe, director of research at Nihon Unicom Corp. in Tokyo.

"But we have the IEA report today, and tomorrow the US stocks data. The news might be more bearish than bullish. I don't think the bombing will push crude through $28," said Watanabe.

Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef told Al Riyadh newspaper suicide bombers driving vehicles laden with explosives were responsible for three blasts at expatriate compounds in eastern Riyadh, just hours before US Secretary of State Colin Powell was due to arrive.

US Ambassador Robert W. Jordan told CNN television at least 40 Americans and an unspecified number of other foreign nationals were wounded, possibly killed, in the blasts.

Saudi Arabia is the biggest exporter of crude oil to the world's 77 million barrel-per-day market, with an estimated production capacity of 10.5 million bpd.

Under the latest production agreement by the Opec cartel, Saudi Arabia has a quota to pump 8.256 million bpd from June 1.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed last month to reduce output fearing a potential price collapse from the eventual return of Iraqi crude to the international market and an uncertain outlook for oil demand.

The global economy is struggling due to anaemic growth in the United States, Europe and Japan, the three major sources of spending, and Opec officials have warned more supply cuts may be in the pipeline in June when the group meets in Doha.

The IEA, which oversees energy security and emergency stocks for 26 industrialized nations, warned in late April it may trim its oil demand forecast for 2003 due to the spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome v. *Reuters*

Wall St. payout may take 18 months–SEC

NEW YORK—Investors might have to wait as long as 18 months to see any money from Wall Street's $1.4-billion settlement over biased stock research, the US Securities and Exchange Commission said on Monday.

The regulator, in a question-and-answer press release posted on its website, said investors will be entitled to $399 million, plus interest, from nine of the 10 banks involved in the settlement, plus two former star analysts—Henry Blodget, formerly of Merrill Lynch & Co., and Jack Grubman, formerly of Citigroup Inc.'s Salomon Smith Barney.

The settlement with the SEC, the NASD, New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and others stemmed from allegations that analysts issued overly bullish, and in some cases fraudulent, stock research reports to drum up investment banking business.

Citigroup is paying $157.5 million, including Grubman's share, while Credit Suisse First Boston is paying $75 million, the SEC said.

Bear Stearns Cos., Goldman Sachs Group Inc., J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., Morgan Stanley and UBS Warburg LLC are paying $25 million each, and US Bancorp Piper Jaffray is paying $12.5 million. Blodget is paying $4 million.

Merrill Lynch is excluded from the payments because it previously paid $100 million in penalties to the states, the SEC said.

Under the settlement with regulators, the investment banks neither admitted nor denied wrongdoing. *Reuters*

Strong euro wins finance chiefs' backing

BRUSSELS—Euro zone finance ministers, with the backing of the European Central Bank, said on Monday a strong and stable euro was in the interests of the regional and global economies.

The surging euro, up more than 10 percent this year against the dollar to hit fresh four-year highs on Monday, helps contain inflationary pressures and strengthens consumer buying power, said Nikos Christodoulakis, the Greek who chairs the Eurogroup.

"A strong and stable euro is in the interests of the euro area and the global economy. Naturally the exchange rate of the euro needs to reflect economic fundamentals," he said after a euro zone finance ministers' meeting attended by ECB vice president Lucas Papademos.

"The recovery expected for the second half of this year seems increasingly likely," he said, adding the caveat that the pick up may be slowed by weak job markets and corporate balance sheet repairs.

The finance ministers' and ECB blessing to the currency strength came despite recent complaints from European corporate leaders who say it hurts profits and competitiveness.

Instead the financial leaders welcomed the currency gains as contributing to an improving economic outlook for the euro zone, which European Monetary Affairs Commissioner Pedro Solbes said looks poised to grow by an average of one percent this year.

"We continue to see a rebound in economic activity in the second half of the year, supported by the combination of favorable monetary conditions, lower oil prices, and improvements in the stock markets," Solbes said at the same news briefing.

He denied that the EU finance ministers were giving a green light to foreign exchange markets to push the currency even higher. Still, the euro bounced upward as their comments were released, jumping almost 0.2 US cents to $1.557.

"We are not giving any kind of green light. The strong euro has helped contribute to containing inflationary pressures and thereby to support the purchasing power and domestic demand," Solbes said. *Reuters*

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World's #1 in Medical Science Appoints AMA Exclusive Partner

As everybody knows, a Harvard medical education is one of the most prized in the world. With the recent appointment of AMA as its exclusive partner in the Philippines, Harvard recognizes AMA's preeminence in education and licenses use of its educational resources and program for the AMA medical program.

The partnership combines the strengths of both Universities into an academic offering full of opportunities for the medical student: in practice, in research and in education.

The partnershipalso imbues the AMA Medical School graduate with the right to pursue further studies at Harvard.

... to this year's graduating students ... As you proudly march out from this institution, diplomas in hand, we expect you to become active stakeholders in building a strong and modern Philippines... Together, we shall build a strong Philippine Republic.
Mabuhay ang mga nagsipagtapos...

GMArroyo
H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Republic

As you record for posterity your triumphs, I urge you to pursue your vision with energy and enthusiasm. In so doing, you will have a rich, full life that would bring you the greatest personal and professional satisfaction and will contribute to the betterment of the nation in the future. ***Mabuhay Kayong Lahat!***

H.E. Teofisto T. Guingona, Jr.
Vice-President of the Republic

... I urge you new graduates to use your knowledge as a tool... Drive this nation toward the pinnacle of greatness. Show the world what the Filipinos can do in this information technology era.

Hon. Franklin Drilon
Senate President

It is always a pleasure to see our students go through the annual graduation rites beaming with pride and exuding self-confidence as well-equipped new members of the world's roster of knowledge workers. Congratulations!

Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V
Founding Chairman and University President

Another First F

As the **President** del will be simulcast via **inter** **satellite** to the Folk Arts, **webcast** to more than all over the world.

Today we announce our **grad**

The harnessing of science and technology for man's use has always been central to the AMA Education System philosophy. Today, as we honor our graduates for School Year 2002-2003, we once more pioneer in the use of some of the newest technologies available to man. For the first time in the Philippines, we interlink the use of microwave satellite and webcast technology for the benefit of our graduates. Today we annouce them to the world.

Our more than ten thousand graduating students from all over the country will be able to share, as one family, simultaneous graduation experiences even as their venues are far apart. Each and every one of them will be able to enjoy the President's message almost as a personal experience, magnified by multiple big-screen monitors in each venue. The link will be two-way.

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Cacho, Lowella O.
Master of Science in Computer Science
Fresno, Sheryl L.
Master of Arts in Computer Education
Limbauan, Cherylyn B.
Master of Arts in Computer Education

Ramos, Juliet F.
Master of Arts in Computer E
Reloj, Arlene R.
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Master of Science in Compu
Sarmiento, Melie Jim F.
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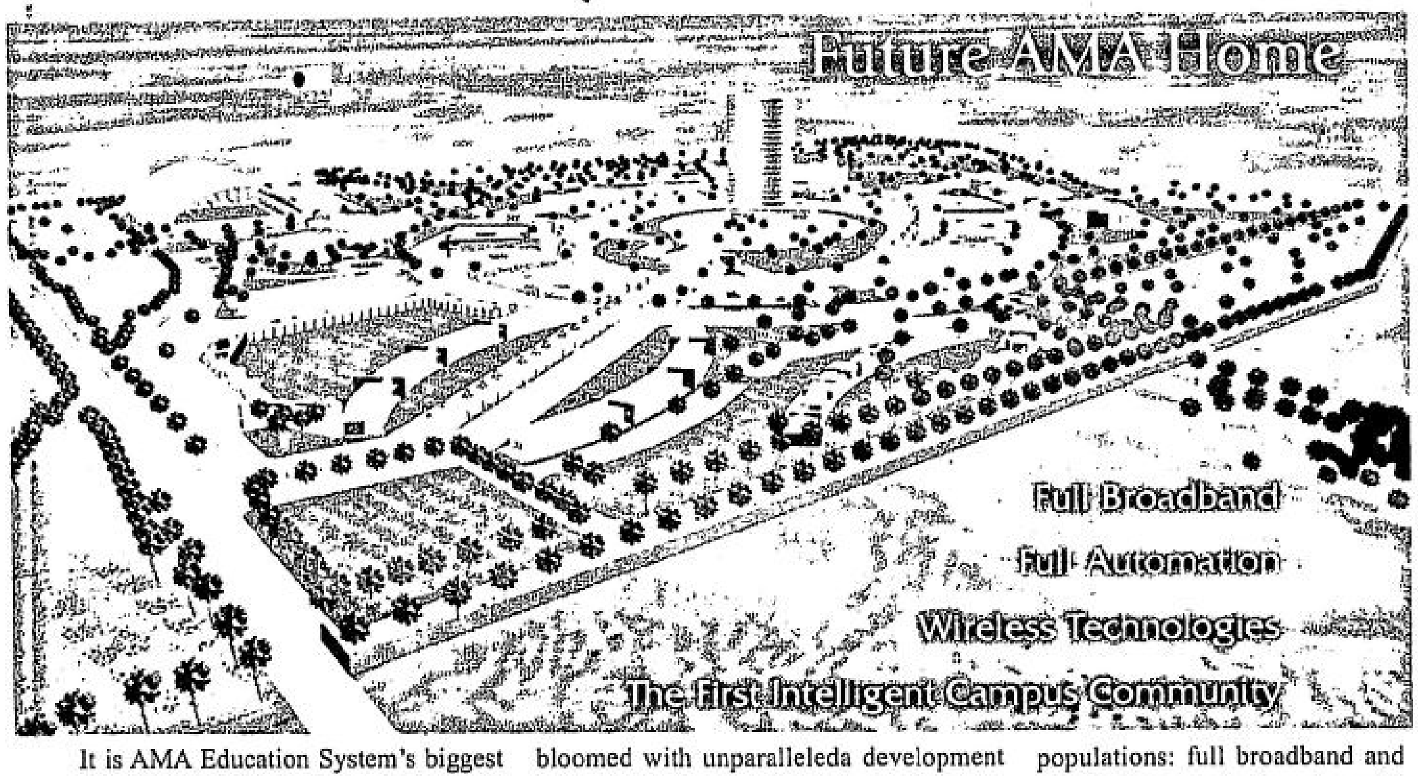
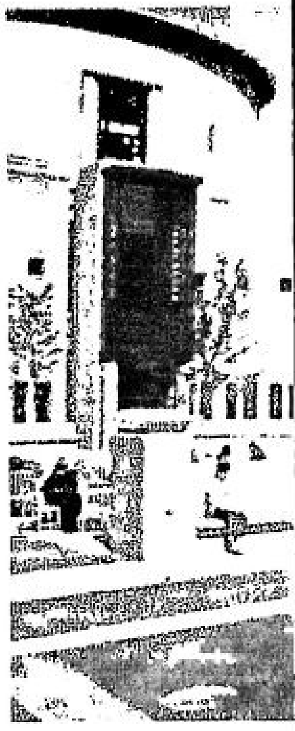


It is AMA Education System's biggest flagship project to date: the AMA Telepolis. A 50-hectare property in General Trias, Cavite has been earmarked for development into a university campus residential community much in the mold of Harvard and Cambridge. History has shown how the host townships of these eminent universities have bloomed with unparalleleda development owing to the symbiotic relationships between the halls of academe and the resident community.

Envisioned as a 1.5 Billion Peso seed development project, AMA Telepolis will boast of high-technology systems to be made available to both the school and resident populations: full broadband and wireless technologies that will literally make computing and the Internet part of daily life, full automation and robotics capabilities, and famed AMA educational resources. The future is here.

icarnegie

World's # 1 in Computer Science Appoints AMA Exclusive Licensee



iCarnegie and parent Carnegie Mellon University are acknowledged tops in the world in computer software and engineering development. Their robotics program is recognized as the most authoritative and comprehensive globally..

In recognition of AMA Computer University's own stature in Asia and the Philippines, **iCarnegie** has appointed the latter as its exclusive licensee with authority to use its program and educational resources for AMA's own faculty and students.

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This view of science in the service of the Filipino permeates our incessant quest for excellence and knowledge for our students. It has led us to forge new partnerships, such as with iCarnegie and Harvard Medical International, who have gifted our efforts with the recognition their partnership affords. To pioneer, once upon a time in computer science, now into robotics and data translation, high-speed communications and the Internet. It has led us to travel the less travelled routes, the new paths to success for our students.

Our education opens up windows of opportunity for them... for a better life in a world that will be hungry for their new skills, knowledge and acumen. We have prepared them for the world with the best education available. Today, we are proud to call them AMAers.

Our warmest congratulations to this year's graduates...

We urge the graduates to pursue lifelong learning for them to keep pace with the rapidly changing work enviroment.

Mabuhay!

Esther Garcia
Chairperson, Commission on Higher Education (CHED)

iCarnegie, Inc., on behalf of itself and **Carnegie Mellon University**, sends greetings and offers its heartfelt congratulations...

We share with you your objective of giving your students and graduates the best education obtainable. MABUHAY!

Allan L. Fisher
President and CEO, iCarnegie

Our congratulations go to you for your hard work and achievement and also to your families, many of who are here today, for their support and commitment to your studies.

NCC Education is proud of its long association with AMA.

David Pottinger
Managing Director of NCC Education

... the global demand for people like you will continuously increase.

This only means you made the right choice at the right time when you enrolled in AMA.

May God guide you in making the right choices from hereon!

Amable C. Aguiluz IX
President, AMA Education System

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Magna Cum Laude

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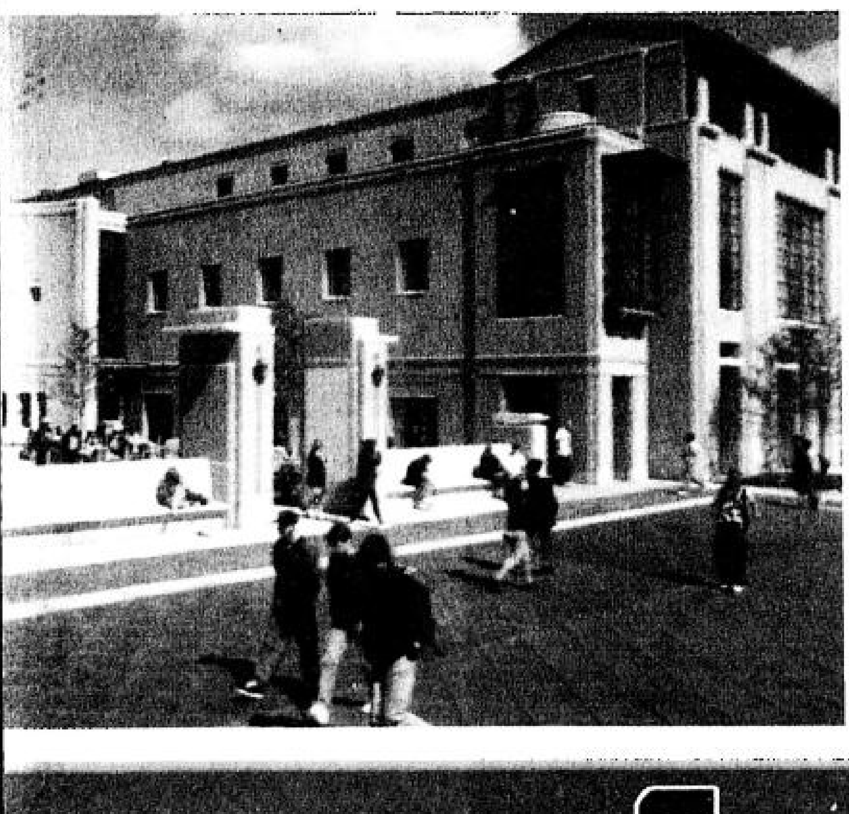
San Pedro, Glori Ann C.
AB Psychology - Cabanatuan City Campus

Lorenzo, Mark Dexter A.
BS ECE - Cavite Campus



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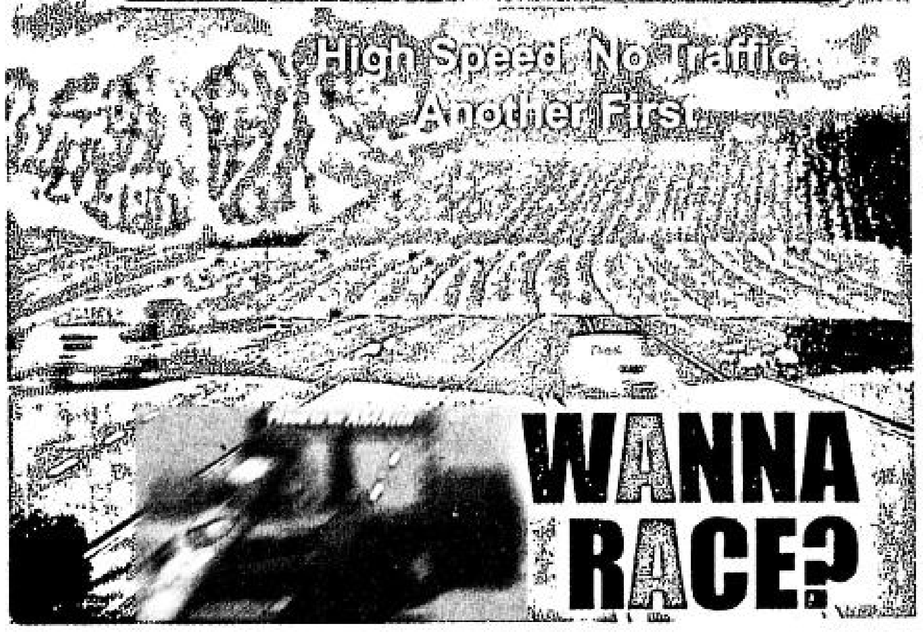

AMAers Enjoy Unlimited Access To The Internet

Speed-of-thought access to the Internet is a reality for every AMA student. So is UNLIMITED ACCESS. With its own DS3 broadband, AMA is able to offer its students the fastest access to the internet available in the country, as much as they want. We believe that this is part of their education.

Acquainting the AMA student with the technologies he learns in school is an ongoing program at AMA Computer University and its sister schools. Usage and experience are still regarded as some of the best methods of teaching.

At AMA, students don't just *learn* high-tech, we let them *live* high-tech.

ROBOTICS THE NEW FRONTIER

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With its major applications in manufacturing, data processing and transmission, transportation and communications and business, robotics will take centerstage in the world of scientific and technological education in the next few years. From this new incipient discipline will come the jobs and wealth-generating activities of the new century.

True to form, AMA Computer University gives its students first crack at the opportunities this will engender.

For its Robotics program, AMA has partnered with FESTO (the German automation giant) for its teaching labs, with Alpha Innovations for micromouse development, with iCarnegie for software design and content, with the National University of Singapore and the UNESCO for content and curriculum development.

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The **Philippine Tourism Authority** celebrates its 30th Anniversary!

I convey my warmest greetings to the **Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA)** on the occasion of your 30th Anniversary.

Since my assumption to the Presidency, much has transpired and it is unfortunate that peace and order problems coupled with the overall slump in the world economy have negatively weighed upon Philippine tourism. Despite this, we have not faltered in supporting this promising industry by tackling the challenges that hampered the growth of tourism head-on and extending support where it is most needed.

We plan to sustain our efforts especially in encouraging our people to be tourists in our own country, developing new sites, aggressively promoting our destinations, and establishing cooperation with other countries for this purpose. It is our conviction that a rejuvenated and dynamic tourism industry is an important factor towards the attainment of a more viable economy.

As the infrastructure arm of the Department of Tourism tasked with developing tourist zones, the PTA plays a central role in pushing forward our thrust for Philippine tourism. Through the years, the PTA has been relied upon to enhance existing tourist zone areas and to pioneer development in sites not yet reached by private enterprise.

May this celebration inspire you to continue the good work and to initiate new projects in line with our Administration's present program of revitalizing the Philippine tourism industry.

Maligayang pagdiriwang at mabuhay kayo!

GMArroyo

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Republic of the Philippines

My warmest greetings to the officials and employees of **Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA)** on the celebration of the PTA's 30th founding anniversary!

Since its creation in May 1973, the PTA has steadfastly carried its preeminent role of supporting the programs and policies of the Department of Tourism (DOT) through specific tourism development projects. It has continued to provide and maintain the necessary physical infrastructure and facilities to support the DOT in the development and promotion of the Philippines as a tourist destination thereby contributing to the country's socio-economic development.

Under the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, travel and tourism has been identified as a major engine for socioeconomic development. The government in collaboration with the private sector is putting more energies and resources to promote the Philippines as a unique and multifaceted business and travel destination.

For its part, the Department of Tourism (DOT) has initiated programs and projects, which all led up to the **Visit Philippines 2003** campaign. Some of these initiatives are the "WOW Philippines!," which is the master acronym for "Wealth of Wonders" and "The Philippines: More Than The Usual" campaigns, Tourism Volunteer 12, New "Balikbayan" program, DOT Visitor Information System, Tourism Enterprise Zones, and our national advocacy for the development of a "culture of tourism."

The **Visit Philippines 2003** campaign integrates all tourism marketing communication resources to increase visitor-arrivals to our country. It seeks to build a strong partnership with multisectoral entities, local travel trade and the mass media to mount well-planned and sustained marketing programs.

This year, the whole world's attention is focused on the best which our country has to offer as a unique and multi-faceted business and travel destination. With **Visit Philippines 2003** in full swing, we invite people from all over the world to come and visit our country where they can explore the wealth of wonders of the Philippines' more than 7,1000 islands and experience the Filipino way of celebrating our rich cultural heritage and festive spirit.

Again our congratulations and our best wishes as we look forward to a bright future amidst the beauty of our island and the warmth of our people.

Mabuhay!

RICHARD J. GORDON
Secretary of Tourism

Allow me to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the officers, employees and members of the **Philippine Tourism Authority** family as we celebrate 30 years of pioneering tourism development.

In barely five (5) months, the PTA and I have already embarked on the long awaited rehabilitation of its various entities like Mt. Data and Banaue Hotels, effected the development of environmentally educational whale-watching in Donsol, Sorsogon, and started the construction connecting a new sewerage system to the main pipeline to service the ever-increasing demands of Boracay Island.

On this, PTA's Pearl Anniversary, unity and professionalism is paramount. The diversity of our involvement in tourism development should culminate in a unified purpose. It is the PTA family's professionalism and unified desire to further pioneer tourism development that shall be the catalyst in trailblazing new horizons in tourism. Let us work together as one, one in achieving our goals fostering camaraderie and standing united as stronger Philippine Tourism Authority.

The means for this trailblazing journey for tourism development shall be anchored on professional public service. With the officers, employees and all the members of the PTA exemplifying professionalism in government service, we ensure the responsive and effective development of the tourism industry.

Let us take this opportunity to thank President Arroyo for the support she continually extends the tourism industry, specifically the Phillippine Tourism Authority, for enhancing existing tourist destinations and pioneering the development of tourist zones not yet reached by private enterprise. Let us also encourage every Filipino to visit the various beautiful destinations all over the archipelago and not be strangers on their own land.

On this pearl year of the PTA, imbued with unity and professionalism, we shall help realize Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's call for a strong Republic through a rejuvenated and dynamic tourism industry realizing more viable economy. MABUHAY ANG PTA & MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!

In service to God, country and the Filipino people,

RDBarbers

ROBERT DEAN S. BARBERS
General Manager/Chief Executive Officer
Philippine Tourism Authority

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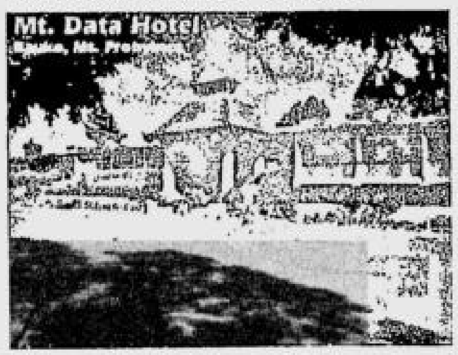

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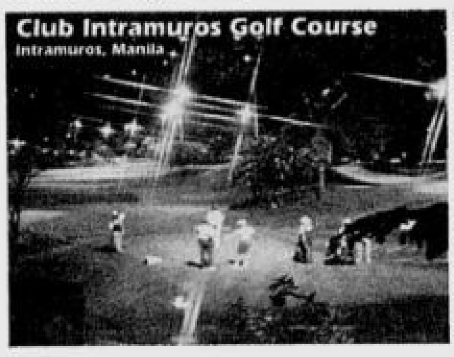

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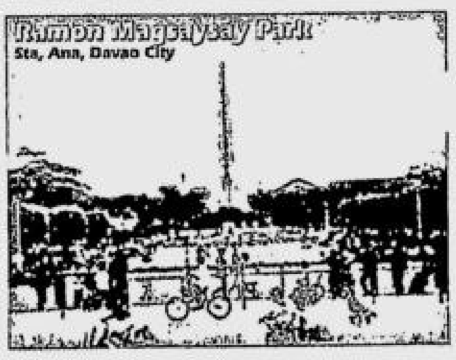

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HOUSE & LOT

MANILA

NR LA SALLE BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.415M 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

Gnhts. new4br 2.2M 9487112

QUEZON CITY

Proj2 new 9210255/9219967

RIZAL

ORTIGAS EXT alng Ridgmont Ave near gate & guard 180m² P5T/m² RUSH Call 9488240

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1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 3-5BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8169049

THE BEL-AIR SOHO 10% DP 8T/MONTHLY WEST OF AYALA RFO 48T / SQM 0919-8804780

MANILA

MALATE MANILA
STUDIO 1.6M 1BR-2BR 2.5M-5.6M P-HSE 6M T0918-9132396

nr UST, Espana Tower P825T Studio,until May 15 6873372

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HOUSE & LOT

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LOT

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QUEZON CITY

Cresta Verde 044-6627285

RIZAL

207 8T/SQM EMIL 533-5730

BULACAN

Bul Cityland Sta. Maria 144 sqm • 533-8118

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1.3HA RICEFIELD CANAMAN CAM.SUR 4754977 PERLA

ZAMBALES Mango Farm 2,7,9,10,30,68ha 09192221766

RESORT

ZAMBALES, Develop Undev alg hway 0919-2221766

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

BAGUIO

Transients/Live-In Seminars Kennon RD 4422020

HOUSE

MAKATI

SANLO DUPLEX 5268048/49

PASIG

Kawilihan Vill Bung 4BRM w/grge T6714452 • 6313467

CONDO/TWNHSE

KALOOCAN

NEW COM'L • OFFICE #162 P. Jacinto cor. Biglang Awa Caloocan 323-0175

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

VARIOUS AREAS

ERA FOR LEASE OR SALE

QUEZON CITY
- Corinthian Hills
- Green Meadows
- Ayala Heights
- White Plains

MAKATI CITY
- Dasmariñas Village
- Magallanes Village
- Urdaneta Village
- Bel-Air Village

SAN JUAN, MM
- Greenhills West
- East Greenhills

MUNTINLUPA
- Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa

STA. ROSA/ LAGUNA
- Laguna BelAir

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COMML/RESDL

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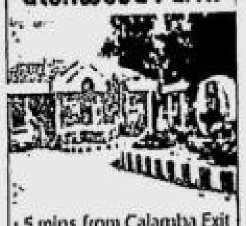

- 5 mins. from Calamba Exit
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- With clubhouse, pool, playground, tennis and basketball courts

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2% w/o Taking Car 6567685

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 8966633/30

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COMML/RESDL

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- First class subd. in Calamba, Laguna
- View of Mt. Makiling & Laguna Bay
- Amenities to include clubhouse, pool, playground, basketball court
- 130 sqm average lot area

As low as P5,000/month

For inquiries, please call: 637-8936 / 637-8919

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PHILTOWN
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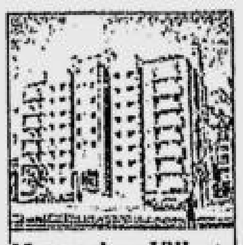
REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL



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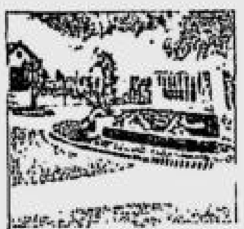

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- First class subdivision
- Along highway to Batangas
- Near Mahogany Market
- Perfect weather whole year round
- 250 sqm average lot area

As low as P15,000/month

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A Subsidiary of RFM Corporation

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

MAKILING HILLS

- First class neighborhood in Calamba Laguna
- View of Mt. Makiling
- With existing clubhouse, swimming pool, and basketball court
- 110 sqm average lot area

As low as P5,000/month

For inquiries, please call: 637-8936 / 637-8919

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Republic of the Philippines
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry & Investments Bldg., 385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City

VACANT POSITIONS FOR PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT

ATTORNEY I
Item No. 141-1 (BOIB-ATY1-1-1998)
Legal Services Department
Salary Grade 16 + allowances
- Bachelor of Laws with RA 1080
- Work experience and training are not required.

ATTORNEY II
Item No. 135 (BOIB-ATY2-1-1998)
Legal Services Department
Salary Grade 18 + allowances
- Bachelor of Laws with RA 1080
- Work experience and training are not required.

INVESTMENTS SPECIALIST
Item No. 278 (BOIB-IMENTS-70-1998)
Incentives Department
Salary Grade 15 + allowances
- Bachelor's Degree in Economics
- Must have an above-average ability for both oral and written communications
- Must have a strong analytical ability and knowledge in presenting and interpreting numerical facts that will be significant to the BOI
- Must have a good background in doing economic research

CLERK III
Item No. 302 (BOIB-CK3-6-1998)
Technology Management Department
Salary Grade 6 + allowances
- Completion of two years studies in college
- Work experience and training are not required
- Career Service Subprofessional/First Level Eligibility

INVESTMENTS SPECIALIST
Item No. 254 (BOIB-IMENTS-41-1998)
Technology Management Department
Salary Grade 15 + allowances
- BS Computer Science/BS Information Management/BS Information Technology or other related courses
- Must have at least one (1) year of relevant work experience and four (4) hours of relevant training
- Career Service Professional/2nd Level Eligibility

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT I
Item No. 261 (BOIB-EXA 1-2-1998)
Project Evaluation & Registration Department
Salary Grade 14 + allowances
- Bachelor's Degree in Economics
- Must have at least one (1) year work experience and four (4) hours of training
- CS Professional/2nd Level Eligibility

ACCOUNTING CLERK II
Item No. 55-2 (BOIB-AC2-2-1998)
Administration Department
Salary Grade 6 + allowances
- BS Accounting graduate
- Must have strong personality
- Work experience and training are not required
- Career Service Subprofessional/First Level Eligibility

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:
26 May 2003
Applications are accepted only during Tuesdays & Fridays (9am - 12nn & 1pm - 5pm) Human Resources Division, Administration Department

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS Pawnshop, Aliw Complex, Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan.

All unredeemed pledges of Nov.2002 will be auctioned on May 21, 8:30 am.
Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **ELIZABETH C. COBB** has been extra-judicially settled on May 5, 2003, Under Doc. No. 48; Page No. 11; Book No. XV; Series of 2003, before Notary Public FELIPE L. ZULUETA of Paranaque.
(PDI-May 7, 14 & 21, 2003)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT VICTORIANO D. DEGUZMAN DIED LAST MARCH 23, 2003 AT THE AGE OF 81
PDI-May 14, 21 & 28, 2003

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Gregorio D. Diaz has been extrajudicially settled with assignment of rights among his heirs before Notary Public, Atty. Jaime S. De Guzman as per Doc. No. 480; Page No. 96; Book No. 207; Series of 2003.
(PDI - May 7, 14 & 21, 2003)

PERSONAL

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

IN THE MATTER OF SAFEGUARD MEASURES APPLICATION AGAINST THE IMPORTATION OF FIGURED GLASS AND GLASS MIRRORS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES FILED BY ASAHI GLASS PHILIPPINES (AGP)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Pursuant to Rule 5.2 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 8800 "The Safeguard Measures Act" which provides that **"the Secretary when establishing that the application of a safeguard measure will be in public interest shall take into consideration the following factors; among others: (i) whether the imposition of the provisional measure will result in political and economic crisis: and (ii) the extent to which such imposition will cause a shortage of a product under consideration"**, the Secretary of Department of Trade and Industry issued on 23 April 2001, Department Order No. 37 (Internal Procedure on RA 8800 – Safeguard Measures Act) mandating the Bureau of Import Services (BIS), Board of Investments (BOI) and Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection (BTRCP) to jointly conduct a public consultation to establish that the application of safeguard measures will be in the public interest.

In view thereof, notice is hereby given that a public consultation will be held on the above Safeguard Measures application on 19 May 2003 at 1:00 PM at the 6th Floor, Center Conference Room, DTI Head Office, 361 Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

All interested parties are hereby enjoined to attend and present their evidence in support of their respective positions.

For particulars, you may contact the Bureau of Import Services – Import Strategy Division (BIS-ISD) at telephone numbers 895-9228 / 896-4431 / 895-5474.

LUIS M. CATIBAYAN
Officer-in-Charge

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF JUNK/ SCRAP, SERVICEABLE/UNSERVICEABLE ITEMS

"AS IS. WHERE IS" BASIS
DATE OF BIDDING: MAY 29, 2003

The National Power Corporation will conduct a public bidding for the following items:

	ITEMS DESCRIPTION and LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1.	One (1) lot Unserviceable/Busted Fluorescent Tubes, Bulbs, Mercury & other type Lamps, various Junk and Unserviceable items, such as Automotive spare parts, etc. located at Bldg. 2, Podium and Machine Room. Roof deck, Bldg. 2, NPC-Diliman, Q.C.	P 4,537.00/lo
2	One (1) lot Used and Serviceable Fluorescent Tubes and Ballasts, located at Bldg. 2 basement, NPC, Diliman, Q.C.	P70,000.00/lo
3	One (1) lot Used and Unserviceable Printing Machine, consisting of Plate-maker, Electrostatic, model PM-60, Brand ELEFAX, s/n. 231763 and Off-Set machine, 1650 CD Basic Offset w/ chain delivery, Brand MULTI. Located at NPC OSC, Diliman, Quezon City	P64,000.00/lo
4.	One (1) lot Scrap and Junk items, consisting of 7 pcs. Perkins Engine blocks, Air-cons, Computers, auto spare parts, Diesel engine parts, I-Beams, channels, steel parts, etc. approx. 25 tons. This Lot is on a Clean-Up Basis Located at SPUG, Minuyan, SJDM, Bulacan	P75,000.00/l
5.	One (1) lot Used and Unserviceable Steel Tower Parts, approx. 30 tons, consisting of deformed angular bars and steel plates of various lenghts/sizes. located at NPC Kalayaan stockyard, Lumban, Laguna	P 121,500.0 lot

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 3:00 p.m. of May 29, 2003 at the Materials Management Department Office, Ground Floor, Bldg. I, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City and shall then and there be opened and publicly read. For bid forms at P50.00 per set, additional information and request for inspection, please see Mr. S.V. LOMUNTAD, Jr. at the above address or call telephone no. 922-8431 or 9245-384. Deadline for the issuance of bid forms is 4:30 p.m. on May 28, 2003. All bids must be submitted with the following:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2002) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED COPY)

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposal as may be advantageous to its interest.

For the Materials Management Department

F. B. TACATA, JR.
OIC MMD

(PDI - May 14, 15 & 16, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Turnkey Implementation of the Market Management System for The Philippine Wholesale Electricity Spot Market

Date: 12 May 2003
Loan No. : 1984PHI
Contract No. . WESM-MMS-01

1. The National Power Corporation (NPC) has obtained a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to finance the cost of Electricity Market and Transmission Development Project.
2. The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), as the Purchaser/ Executing Agency, is inviting sealed bids from eligible bidders registered within any ADB member country for the Turnkey Implementation of the Market Management System (MMS) for the Philippine Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) ("the CONTRACT") which will include the supply, installation, commissioning, and testing of computer and communication systems necessary for the operation of the WESM.
3. Bidders may obtain further information and acquire the bidding documents from:

   Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC)
   c/o Atty. Gina Lourdes D. Valeros
   Corporate Secretary
   National Transmission Corporation
   2/F Building I, NPC Complex
   Diliman, Quezon City
   Telefax No. 926-0928
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders or authorized representatives upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred **Dollars (US$500.00)** to the TransCo Cashier.

   In case of a foreign firm/company, purchase of bidding documents can be made by remitting the equivalent amount in US Dollars of 520 (USD 520) to:

   Philippine National Bank (PNB) New York and for further credit to Account No 249-702254-4 of the National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) with the Philippine National Bank, NPC Branch B.I.R. Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

   A copy of the remittance instruction/cable must be submitted to TransCo together with a written application to the above address and must specify the name of the person and designation with complete address where documents will be forwarded.
5. A two-Stage-Two-Envelope bidding procedure will be adopted in accordance with Guideline for Procurement under ADB Loans (visit www.adb.org for details)
6. A pre-bid conference will be held at Sinulog Room, Fiesta Hall-NPC Complex, Diliman, Quezon City, on June 2, 2003 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
7. Bids must be delivered at:

   Special Bids and Award Committee
   c/o Ms. Elaine R. De Guzman
   Department of Energy
   4th Floor, DOE Building, Energy Center
   Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
   Telefax No. (632) 840-2173
   E-mail: edguzman@doe.gov.ph

   on or before June 16, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of Five Hundred Thousand U.S. dollars (US$500,000.00). Late bids will be rejected.
8. The technical proposals will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend. The bid security certificate must be accessible for verification when the technical proposals are opened (i.e. not sealed with the price proposal). Otherwise, the bid will be disqualified as having no proof bid security.
9. The price proposals and supplementary price proposals, if provided, will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Purchaser/Executing Agency after approval of the ADB of the evaluation of the technical proposals.

(Sgd.) CYRIL C. DEL CALLAR
Undersecretary
and Chair, Special Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - May 14 & 21, 2003)

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TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: April 8, 2003
LOAN NO.: MIYAZAWA
Contract No.: Sp01.SPTL.Mm-0338

1. The *National Power Corporation (NPC)* has received a loan from the *Miyazawa Funds* for *Zamboanga City Area 138 kV Transmission Line Project* and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract *Supply and Delivery of Transmission Line Materials for the Sangali - Pitogo 138 kV Transmission Line Project.*
2. The *National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)* administering the bidding of the said project, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of:

   Schedule I - Steel Towers, Leg/Body Extensions, Templates and Accessories

   Schedule II - Power Conductors, Aluminum-Clad Overhead Groundwire, Tower Footing Ground Wire and Accessories

   Schedule III - Insulator Assemblies, Line Materials and Hardwares

   Schedule IV - Optical Fiber Groundwire (OPGW), Tower Attachment Assemblies and Accessories.
3. Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the bidding documents at the *Office of the Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department, 2nd Floor, Building 2, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City (Zip Code 1104), Philippines, Tel./Fax Number: 921-2308.*
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders starting **April 15, 2003** upon submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *ten thousand pesos (Php 10,000.00).*
5. A two-envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2)-sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals are opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders or which are not substantially responsive are rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals that have been submitted by qualified bidders are discussed with the bidders and the bidders are requested for full compliance. The bidders may or may not submit a supplementary price proposal, which contain the changes in price resulting from the discussed changes in the technical proposals. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal are opened simultaneously in public.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of:

   Schedule I - Forty Thousand Three Hundred US dollars (US$40,300)

   Schedule II - Seventeen Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty US dollars (US$17,720)

   Schedule III - Thirty Three Thousand Four Hundred Eighty US dollars (US$33,480)

   Schedule IV - Eleven Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety US dollars (US$11,990)

   The bid security must be included with the technical proposal

   The deadline for the submission of bids will be on June 17, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. at the aforementioned address. Late submissions will be rejected.
7. The technical proposals together with the bid security will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
8. The price proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the evaluation of the technical proposals.
9. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any or all Bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN
Chairman
Bids Award Committee

(PDI - May 3, 6, 14 & 22, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632)920-6401 • (632)920-6446
E-mail: *sssemail@info.com.ph* • Web site *http://www.sss.gov.ph*

Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

SSS EMPLOYEES' RICE REQUIREMENT FOR THE 3rd QUARTER OF CY2003

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM is inviting bidders for the supply and door-to-door delivery of approximately 7,500 sacks of Freshly Milled Premium Grade Commercial Rice for SSS employees for the third quarter of Year 2003 with the following specifications:

- Degree of Milling : Well Milled Rice (WMR)
- Moisture Content : 14% (maximum)
- Grade Specifications Headrice - 90% to 95% (minimum)
  Broken - 10% to 5% (maximum)
- Packaging : 50 kilos in light yellow woven polyprophylene
- Labeling : With front & back markings
- Delivery Terms : Thirty (30) calendar days upon receipt of the Purchase Order (P.O.)

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P1,000.00 per sack per employee
Source of Funding	Operating Expense - Rice Grant

Interested bidders must secure the Eligibility Requirements from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Only the eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 to cover the cost of the bidding documents. For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers 922-2991 or 920-6401 local 5490/5491. The deadline for the submission of eligibility documents is on 29 May 2003.

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - May 14, 15 & 16, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 50-MANILA

PROPMECH CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,

- versus - CIVIL CASE NO. 01-102051

VIVA SHIPPING LINES
COMPANY, INC., DOMINGO M.
REYES and RAMON REYES,
Defendants.
x - x

SHERIFF'S NOTICE OF SALE

WHEREAS, by virtue of a Writ of Execution issued in the above-entitled case by the HON. WILLIAM SIMON P. PERALTA, Presiding Judge, Regional Trial Court of Manila, Branch 50, on March 20, 2003, for the recovery of the following: (a) Four Million Two Hundred Ninety Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eleven Pesos and 100/19 (PhP. 4,299,911.19) representing the purchase price of the engines under the Sales Contract No. 97-1166, inclusive of the eighteen percent (18%) per annum interest as damages as provided for in the Sales Contract; (b) Four Hundred Ninety Eight Thousand Five Hundred Forty Three Pesos and One Centavo (PhP. 498,543.01) representing the remaining balance under Sales Contract No. 99-1287 inclusive of Twenty Four (24%) per annum as interest and penalties; (c) Eight Million One Hundred Twelve Thousand Nine Hundred Six Pesos and Eighty Two Centavos (PhP. 8,112,906.82) representing the total amount due from the purchase of various machine and engine parts, inclusive of Twenty Four percent (24%) interest as stipulated in the sales invoices; (d) Amount equivalent to Twenty Five (25%) percent of the total amount due and payable as payment of attorney's fees and costs of collection as provided for in the contract of Sales; (e) Amount of Nine Hundred Eighty Six Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Nine Pesos and Twenty Two Centavos (PhP.986,439.22) representing the amount of the unpaid balance under Sales Contract Nos. 99-1285 and 99-1302; and (f) the costs of suit and all expenses incurred in the implementation of the said writ, etc., LEVY was made on November 8, 2001 by the undersigned Sheriff upon all the rights, interest, title and participation which the defendants VIVA SHIPPING LINES COMPANY, INC., DOMINGO M. REYES and RAMON REYES may have in the following real properties together with all improvements thereon, which are more particularly described as follows:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-45901

A parcel of land (Lot 228-B-4 of the Subdivision plan (LRC) Psd-68834 being a portion of Lot 2228-B, (LRC) Cad. Rec. No. 213), situated in the Barrio of Cotta, City of Lucena, Island of Luzon, Bounded on the N1., points 2 to 5 by Lot 2244, Lucena Cadastre; on the SE., points 5 to 6 by Lot 2228-B-1; on the S., points 6 to 1 by Lot 2228-B-2; and on the W., points 1 to 2 by Lot 2228-B-3, all of the subdivision plan, beginning at a point marked "1" on plan being S. 78 deg. 08'E., 162.95 m. from B. B. B. M.5, City of Lucena; thence N. 3 deg. 05'wo point 23; thence S. 76 deg. 46' E., 5.40 m. to point 3; thence S. 81 deg. 42,78 m. to point 4; thence N. 86 deg. Oo' E., 58.46 m. to point 5; thence S. 37 deg. 26" W., 26.66 m. to point 6; thence S. 86 deg.55' W., 70.71 m. to the point of beginning; containing an area of One Thousand Six Hundred Forty Six (1,646), Square Meters, more or less.

And

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-45941

A parcel of land (Lot 3 of the consolidation and subdivision plan, Pcs-04-002003, being a portion of the consolidation of Lots 2228-B-2 and 2228-B-3 (LRC) Psd-68834, L.R.C. Record No.), situated in the Barrio of Cotta, City of Lucena. Bounded on the SE., & S., along line 5-6 by Lot 2; along lines 6-7-8-9-10 by Lot 1; along line 10-11 by Lot 5; along line 11-12 by Lot 4 all of the consolidation and subdivision plan; on the N, along line 12-13 by Lot 2244 Cad-112, Lucena Cadastre; on the E., & N., along lines 13-14-1 by Lot 2228-B-4 (LRC) Psd-68834. Beginning at point marked 1 on plan, S. 82 deg., 38' E., 231.90 m. from B. L. B. M. No. 5, cad-112 Lucena Cadastre; thence 37 deg. 27' W., 11.05 m. thence N 3 deg. 09' W., 8.94 m. to 6; thence N. 3 deg. 09' W., 11.26 m. to point 7; thence S. 85 deg. 43' W., 4.01 m. to point 8; thence N. 2 deg. 55' W., 6.00 m. to point 11; thence N. 2 deg. 55' W., 62.00 m. to point 12; thence S. 76 deg. 46'E., 12.30 m. to point 13; thence S. 3 deg. 05' E., 25.88 m. to point 14; thence N. 86 deg. 55' E. 70.61 m. to the point of beginning containing an area of Three Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Four (3,624) square meters. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground as follows: points 1,2,3,4, & 13-14 by old P.S. and the rest are P.S. cyl. Conc. mons. 15 x 60 cm; bearing true; date of original survey, July 1916-Dec. 1917, and that of the consolidation and subdivision survey, December 29, 1984, and was approved on January 14, 1985.

x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of said Writ of Execution and in accordance with the provision of Rule 68, Section 3, in relation to Rule 39, Section 18 of the New Rules of Court in the Philippines the undersigned Sheriff of the Regional Trial Court of Manila, Branch 50, hereby announced that at exactly 10:00 o'clock in the morning but not later than 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of the 28th day of May, 2003 at the main entrance of Manila City Hall, facing Philippine Normal University (near the flagpole) the real properties described above will be sold at public auction for CASH and in PHILIPPINE CURRENCY to the highest bidder therefore to satisfy the judgment plus other necessary legal expenses.

Copies of this Sheriff's Notice of Sale will be published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, a newspaper edited and of general circulation in the City of Manila and Lucena City once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks.

This Sheriff's Notice of Sale will be posted in three (3) public conspicuous places in the City of Manila for the General Information of all who may be concerned.

Prospective buyers or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the real properties above, and the encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

Manila, Philippines, April 2, 2003.

(Sgd.) ENRIQUITO A. VIOLETA
Sheriff IV
RTC-Manila Branch 50

WARNING

It is absolutely prohibited to remove deface or destroy this sheriff's Notice of Sale on or before the date of sale, **UNDER PENALTY OF LAW.**

Copy Furnished:

ATTY. JOSE ANTONIO V. EVANGELISTA
Counsel for the Plaintiff
Sycip Salazar Hernandez and Gatmaitan
4th Floor, Sycip Law All Asia Building
105 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

ATTY. JOSE AMOR M. AMORADO
Counsel for the defendants
3rd Floor, Prudential Life Building
P. Canlapan Street, Batangas City

PROPMECH CORPORATION
Marine Technology Center
Aduana cor. Arzobispo Sts.,
Intramuros, Manila

VIVA SHIPPING LINES COMPANY, INC.
DOMINGO M. REYES and RAMON REYES
Lucena City

(PDI – May 7 & 14, 2003)

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SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
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I am
the way,
the truth
and the
life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.

John 14:6

In Loving Memory

on the 1st Death Anniversary of

ARTURO SIDDONS YABUT

1962 - 2002

Masses will be offered today, May 14, 2003 at the following:

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PARISH, *Orense St. Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City*	6:00 AM
MATER DOLOROSA PARISH, *East Rembo, Makati City*	6:00 AM
STA. TERESITA PARISH, *West Rembo, Makati City*	6:00 AM
STS. PETER & PAUL PARISH, *P. Burgos St., Makati City*	6:00 AM
ST. ALPHONSUS DE LIGUORI CHAPEL, *Magallanes Village, Makati City*	6:15 AM
ST. MICHAEL CHAPLAINCY, *Fort Bonifacio, Taguig*	6:30 AM
ST. ANDREW, THE APOSTLE PARISH, *Bel-Air II, Makati City*	6:30 AM
SACRED HEART CHAPEL, *San Antonio Village, Makati City*	7:00 AM
SANCTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH, *Forbes Park, Makati City*	12:00 PM
STO. NIÑO DE PAZ CHAPEL, *Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City*	12:15 PM
NUESTRA SRA. DE GRACIA PARISH, *Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City*	6:00 PM
ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH, *Pasay Road, Makati City*	6:00 PM
MAKATI PARK AND GARDEN, *J.P. Rizal Street, West Rembo, Makati*	6:00 PM

The family requests relatives and friends to remember him in their prayers.

HERMINIA DURAN-DADO

Peacefully joined her Creator
on May 10, 2003 at the age of 74.

Her children **Malou & Noel, Leo & Glo, Mharmie & Ollie, Thillie & Louie, Cherrie & Don, Rhey & Ethel,** and **Dhan & Rhol**; grandchildren; brothers and sisters; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on May 16, 2003 at La Funeraria Paz, after the 8 a.m. Mass.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising HOTLINES:

HEAD OFFICE	: 897-8808 loc. 514 516 899-4425; 897-2535; 897-8425 (Telefax)
CUBAO	: 912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)
MAKATI	: 892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370
KALAW	: 528-0213; 527-3342
MEGAMALL	: 635-0219; 635-0220

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..."

Psalm 23:4

LAUREANO V. CONCEPCION

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 68.

His bereaved wife **Mercy**; children **Arlene** and **Sammy**, **Armina** and **Manny**; grandchildren **Patricia Alexis, Anna Beatrice**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Joseph Chapel, Mt. Carmel Shrine, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Thursday, May 15, 2003 after the celebration of the Holy Mass at 9:00 a.m.

Announcement

The interment of

BRIG. GEN. (Ret) SERGIO M. ISADA, AFP

Has been moved to Saturday, May 17, 2003 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

AUGUSTO ARCENAS Y LEDESMA

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on May 13, 2003.

He is survived by his wife **Marissa**; son **Mylo**; daughter **Veronica**; and grandchildren **Miguel**, **Tre**, **Gabrielle**; brothers and sister **Francis, David, Edwin** and **Melinda** and in-laws **Tessie, Suzie, Inday** and **Bob** (deceased) as well as nephews and nieces. They and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Magallanes Chapel, Magallanes Village, until Friday, May 16, 2003 morning Mass. The time of the Mass to be announced later.

Interment at the Magallanes Church Crypt will be on May 21, 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

NILDA MACABENTA LEE

Now peacefully rests in the Grace and Goodness of our Lord
on May 12, 2003 at the age of 52.

Her loving family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Ipil Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park).

Interment will be on Saturday, May 17, 2003 at Manila Memorial Park after the 3:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate; ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FLYING SUIT (COVERALL) for the Philippine Air Force (PAF).**

The approved budget for this contract is **P 18,225,500.00.**

All interested parties are invited to attend the **Pre-Bid Conference** that will be held **on May 27, 2003, 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, at the PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.**

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **May 14, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00).**

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC Secretariat at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and opening of bids shall be on **June 10, 2003 at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday.**

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at telephone nos. 563-94-02 or 563-93-74.

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI--May 14 & 21, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF COPY PAPER for the PS Stocks.**

The approved budget for this contract is **P 9,486,000.00.**

All interested parties are invited to attend the **Pre-Bid Conference** that will be held **on May 27, 2003, 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, at the PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.**

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **May 14, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of **OneThousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00).**

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC Secretariat at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and opening of bids shall be on **June 10, 2003 at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday.**

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at telephone nos. 563-94-02 or 563-93-74.

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI--May 14 & 21, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD
Cordillera Administrative Region
Botanical Garden, Leonard Wood Road, Baguio City
Tel. No. 442-5338

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **EMILIO S. LIM, JR. - President of ESLA Land Developers, Inc.** has filed with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board a sworn registration statement for the sale of residential condominium units at **SOUTH CHINA SEA - GARDEN VILLAS** located at Green Valley Village, Sto. Tomas, Baguio City specifically identified/described as lot 3 of the consolidation-subdivision plan (LRA Pcs-31123); and that the registration statement and all papers attached thereto are available for inspection during business hours by any person having legal interest thereon and upon proper application and that copies thereof shall be furnished to such person upon payment of the proper fee.

Any person with valid objection in the Registration of the project may file his objection in writing with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, Botanical Garden, Leonard Wood Road, Baguio City, not later than fifteen (15) days from the date of the last publication.

City of Baguio, Philippines, 21st of April 2003.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO P. URATA**
Regional Officer

(PDI - May 7 & 14, 2003)

NOTICE OF TRANSFER

This is to inform the public that **STEADFAST INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT CORP.** has transferred to its new office effective **April 30, 2003 at: Room 501 Doña Felisa Syjuco Building, #1872 Remedios St. cor. Taft Avenue Malate, Manila 1004 Tel. Nos. 5241261 to 69 local 124 / 5362033-direct/telefax; e-mail address: steadfast_international@yahoo.com; website: www.steadfast-international.com**

Visit any of the Inquirer Classified Ads branch and drop your resumés in our new

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2 TILL THERE WAS YOU	2 CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND	2 X-MEN 2 12:40, 3.20, 6.00, 8:40	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 X-MEN 2 12:50 3:30 6:10 8:50 11:30	2 WALANG KAPALIT
3 X-MEN 2	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE 1:40 1:50 4:00 6:10 8:20 10:30	ACOUSTIC NIGHT OUT FEAT. SIDE A May 16, 17, 30 & 31	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 PINOCCHIO 12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30	3 X-MEN 2
4 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE	4 25TH HOUR		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00 11:20	4 CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND
	5 JOHNNY ENGLISH		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 THE HOURS	5 TILL THERE WAS YOU
	6 X-MEN 2			
	7 TILL THERE WAS YOU			

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6 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
7 THE HOUSE
8 TILL THERE WAS YOU
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2 TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 BAYARAN
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1 BAYARAN
2 TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 KIKAY
4 WALANG KAPALIT
5 CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUS MIND
6 X- MEN-2

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1 X- MEN-2
2 WALANG KAPALIT

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1 TILL THERE WAS YOU
2 JOHNNY ENGLISH

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515

1
2
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 X- MEN-2
2 WALANG KAPALIT
3 BAYARAN
4

GOTESCO CINEMA
Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUS MIND
4 BAYARAN
5 KIKAY
6 WALANG KAPALIT
7 (DTS) X- MEN-2
8 (SDDS) THE HOURS
9 (DOLBY) BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1 KIKAY
2 WALANG KAPALIT
3 TILL THERE WAS YOU
4 (SDDS) X- MEN-2
5 BAYARAN
6 (DOLBY) THE HOURS
7 (DTS) XEREX
8 X- MEN-2
9 BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

Gotesco Commonwealth
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1 BAYARAN
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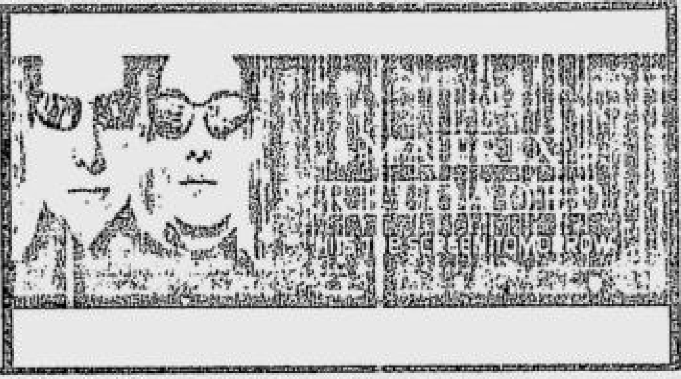

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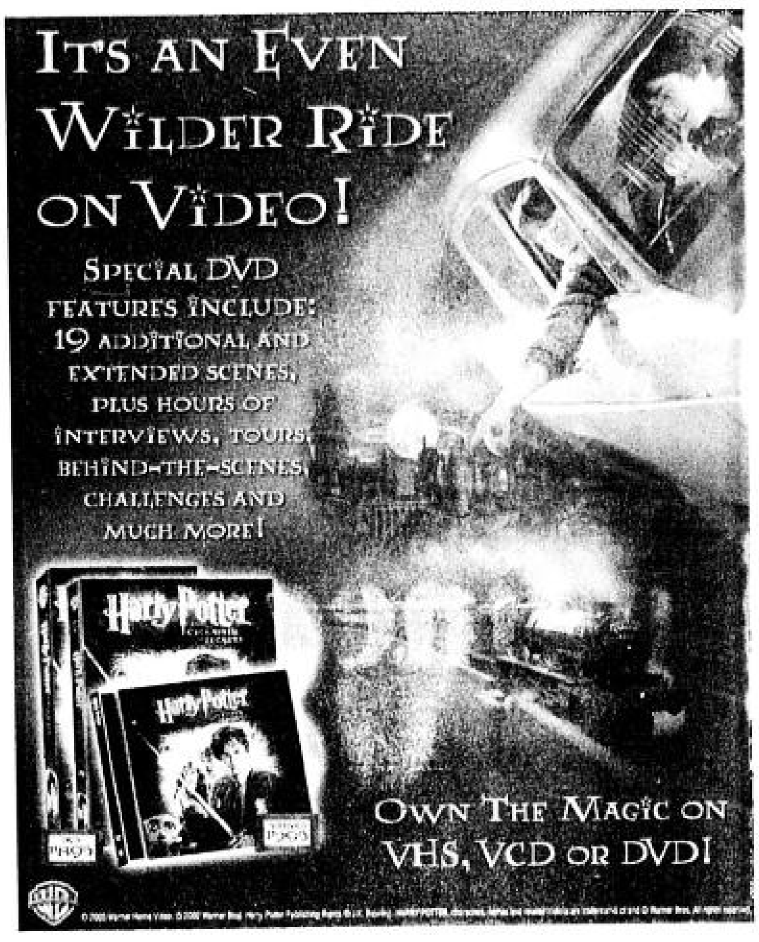

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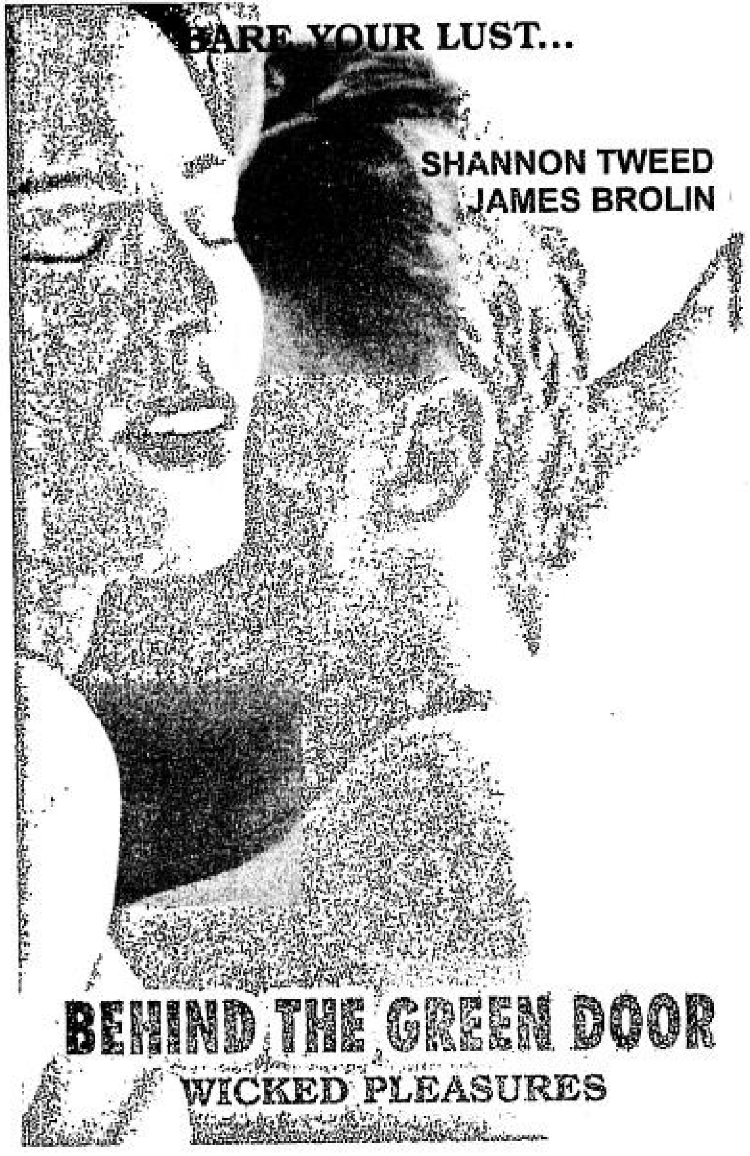

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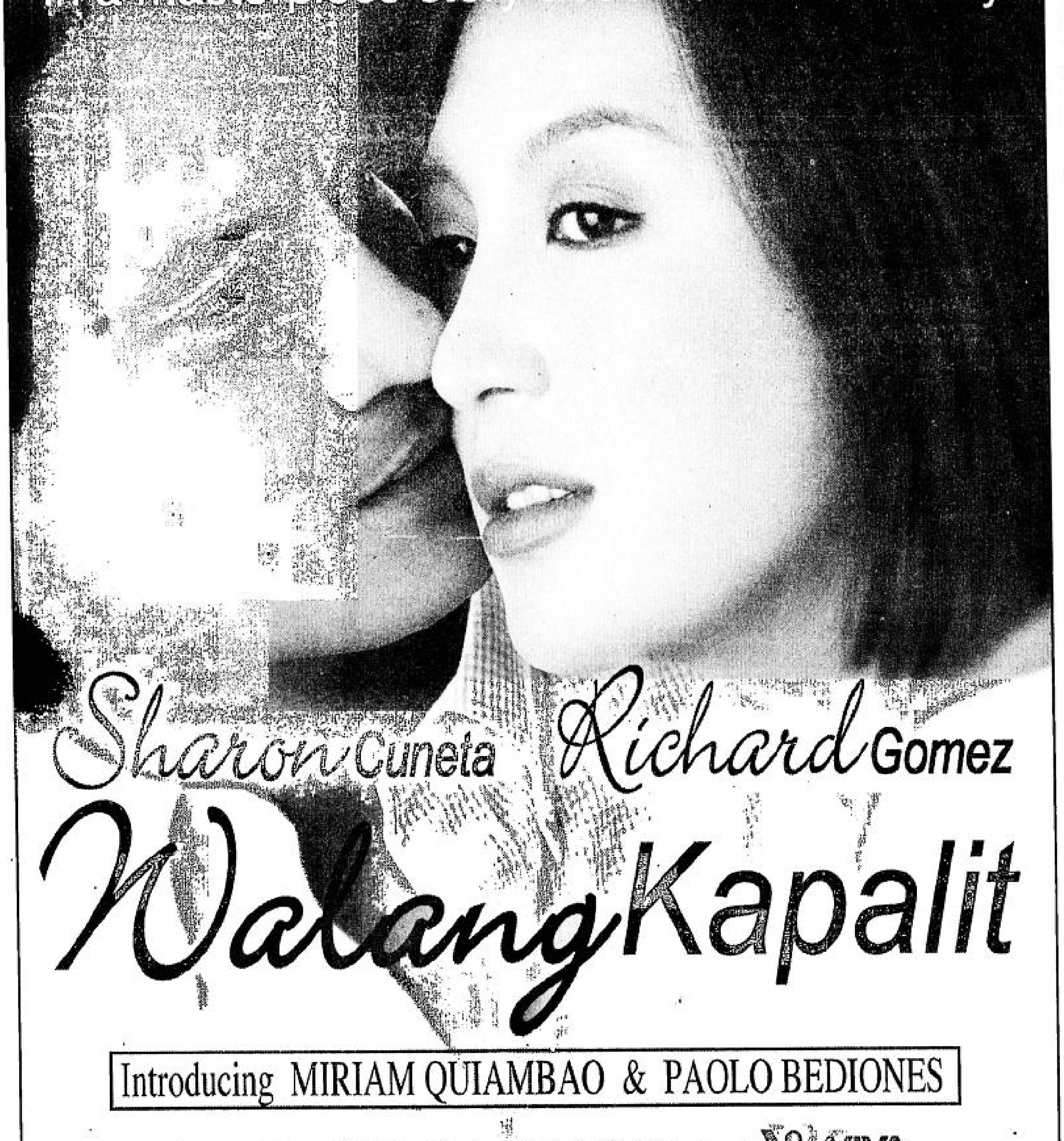

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Global excellence led engineer to CEO post

By Cecile G. Garcia

THERE is no doubt that 43-year-old Joaquin E. Quintos IV brings to the position of president and general manager of IBM Philippines, Inc. the same high standards the company is known for. Quintos assumed the top post in July 2002.

His exemplary track record with the multinational company dates back to 1982 when he first joined it. It was his first job and the beginning of an enduring and successful career.

Rising from the ranks

Quintos rose from the ranks-a shining example that loyalty does pay. Starting his 20-year career at IBM as a systems engineer, he forged ahead to become systems engineering manager, then account services manager, senior consultant of IBM's Consulting Group, division manager for finance and public sector industries and a director of the IBM Philippines board. He pioneered the software and services divisions of the Philippine subsidiary in 1991.

From 1996 to 1997, he was posted in Singapore as general manager of S/390, Storage & Printers Group, and from 1998 to 1999 as general manager of Software & E-business.

Scoring a coup, he got a plum post in January 2000 when he was assigned director for Worldwide Sales of IBM's Software Group. He was based in the company headquarters in Somers, NY and stayed until June 2002.

Mentoring program

To a large extent, Quintos is a product of IBM's formal mentoring. He explains, "IBM has a robust personnel development program and an executive training program. They spot an employee's potential as early as the first to the third year. The company tries to bring out the best in people. In my case, I had the drive and the aspiration. They nurtured and developed me. I had good mentors including former CEOs Bob Romulo and Ramon Dimacili."

Yet, Quintos never imagined he would one day lead the company's local subsidiary. "In truth, I had no particular goal in mind. My only goal was to do the best job possible. I knew if I did well, everything else would follow," he says. Sure enough, the opportunity came without his seeking it. "I realized they had plans for me when I was given my first foreign assignment in 1996. Sending people abroad is expensive. They were investing in me." It dawned on him with near certainty that bigger things would sooner or later happen.

Global standards

But, making it did not come easy, especially because Quintos had to compete on the global stage. "Being Filipino was never a handicap. I never felt any discrimination. But the global environment is highly competitive. I suppose the key is sustainability. You need to combine working hard with time management and being in control of what you want to do."

While he was abroad, Quintos recalls, he was constantly aware that he had to be a worthy representative of our country. In his own way, he had to prove again and again that the Filipino is world-class.

While this is true, contends Quintos, sometimes we lose sight of our priorities. "We focus too much on the fun part, which is okay," he says. "But let's get the job done first," adds the CEO, who is perceived by his staff as disciplined, straightforward, serious and one who sets high standards.

No mediocrity

"I also have a great passion for learning and I'm always eager to gain new insights from the people I meet," declares Quintos. This passion is coupled with a desire to achieve and to pursue excellence in every endeavor. Quintos contends he wouldn't settle for mediocrity and has no good thing to say about the 'puwede na yan' mentality prevalent in a number of Filipinos.

One of the biggest challenges a CEO must face is balancing strategy and execution. This is according to Quintos, who stresses the importance of both. He points out, "Strategy is on a higher level and is more or less defined for us. The problem is in execution, which can be equated with hard work."

Execution, he elaborates, has to do with the little everyday things that make up operations. "This can't be done by one person alone. It requires concerted effort and organizational discipline." Execution, Quintos adds, has to do with attention to details and any executive worth his salt must realize this.

Right people

This fastidiousness is supported by the conviction that investing in the right people is worthwhile. "My best assets are my people," says Quintos. "I surround myself with them. It does not guarantee immediate success. But there's more than a likelihood that you will succeed."

To ensure that he gets a good, competent staff, he often does the hiring himself, handles interviews and sometimes actually hunts down prospects. "There's no substitute for doing it yourself," he quips. But, the problem is always the same: the lack of

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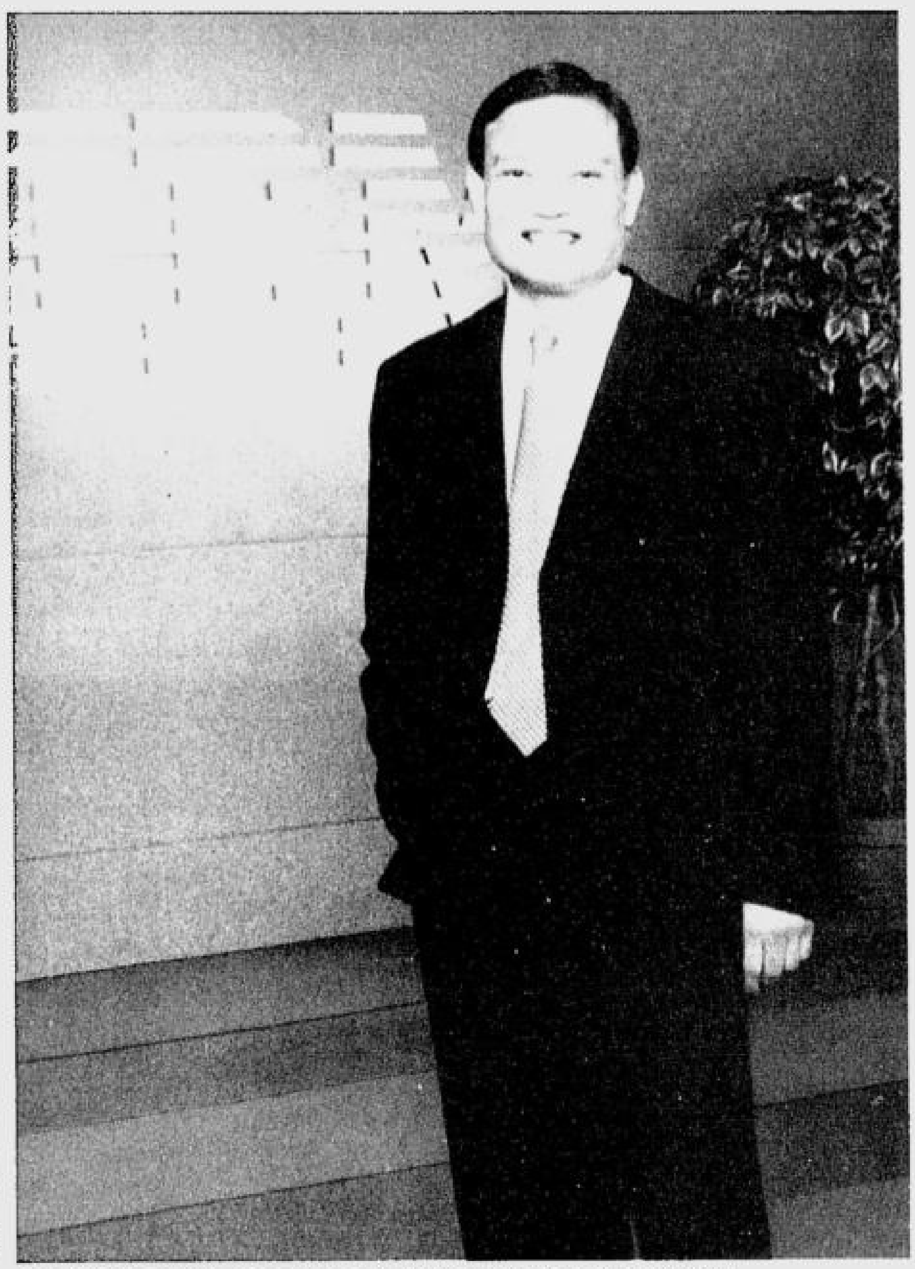
CAREER TALES



QUINTOS, president and general manager of IBM Philippines, Inc.

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DAY 3 CEO Forum: **Mr. Joaquin E. Quintos**, Country General Manager, IBM Philippines, Inc.; **Ms. Sandy Prieto-Romualdez**, President, Philippine Daily Inquirer; **Atty. Felipe L. Gozon**, Chairman & CEO, GMA Network Inc.

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CAREER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

How to select a career mentor

By Josie O. Santamaria

(This is the ninth of a series of articles on career development strategies.)

NOT every expert in a functional area in an organization can be a mentor. To start with, a mentor is selected because he has both technical skills and high IQ. However, it is just as important that he also has a high EQ (emotional intelligence) and is emotionally secure with himself and with others. A mentor must be people-oriented and must value people. Patience is extremely important in the mentoring process. The need for patience will present itself in at least three basic areas:

- Attentiveness. Certain concepts and procedures may be very important to the mentor but not to the protégé.
- Aptitude. The protégé may be way ahead of the mentor's "most difficult" explanations. Or, he may require very precise step-by-step explanations from the mentor in order to apply information in an actual work situation.
- Pressure to attend to "business as usual." The mentor has his own deadlines to meet, targets to deliver. The tendency to resent or begrudge time spent away from "normal" job duties may tempt the mentor to postpone or skip mentoring opportunities in favor of his normal work load.

Emotional maturity is essential in mentoring. The mentor must have the ability to control his emotions, especially when he hears the same questions and issues raised. To do this, the mentor must change his way of thinking. He should realize that the protégé does not have the knowledge and experience that he has.

Characteristics

Based on the responses of protégés describing their former mentors, the profile sketched below approximates the characteristics of an effective mentor. No single mentor possesses all these characteristics but a good one is likely to have most of these characteristics.

- Has an almost expert status in the functional area or field and is recognized as such by his peers; his work shows superior performance;
- Is willing to give or to share his expertise in a non-competitive way;
- Exposes the protégé to new ideas, perspective and standards and to the values and norms of the profession;
- Sets high standards for himself; enjoys and is enthusiastic about his field and continues to update himself in his profession;
- Recognizes excellence in others and encourages superior performance;
- Is loyal to the organization and this loyalty is shown in his desire to assure organizational stability and continuity by developing talented young people and in preparing for succession;
- Is sensitive to the needs of others and able to recognize when his protégé can be left alone to "try his wings and fly" by himself;
- Listens to people, is open to their ideas and opinions and open to paradigm shift;
- Is assertive in expressing his ideas and knowledge;
- Inspires the protégé to what he can become as he leads him to new and more challenging levels of competence;
- Is empathetic i.e., can put himself in the situation of the other person so that he can appreciate where he is coming from, and to be able to sense his unspoken needs.

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Proper selection

How do we know that a candidate for mentor has these qualities? Look at his consistent performance in the area of people development, his reputation among his colleagues and subordinates, and observation of his behaviors and attitudes, rapport with people and feedback from others on a daily basis.

The use of some paper-and-pencil tests, such as a personality inventory like Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) can also provide useful data as do projective tests like the Rorschach ink blots that can surface facts that may be latent in the person.

Selecting an effective career mentor is a vital step in one's career growth and in the retention of talented individuals in a company. Thus, both the individual and the company should take the necessary steps to ensure the success of a mentoring program.

(Ms Santamaria is president of Career Systems, Inc., a consultancy firm offering career development training and services. Email feedback to carsys@qinet.net*)*

Psychology student faces career dilemma

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I'M an incoming third year psychology student from a state university. I would like to ask for your advice regarding career options for me after I graduate. I very much enjoy studying psychology now for it has helped me a lot in coping and understanding some of the issues I have in life.

However, I wonder if a psychology degree can really give me financial security in the future. Many of my relatives, including my own parents, have advised me to consider shifting to nursing. But I feel this course is somewhat "limiting" in terms of intellectual growth.

I'm the type of person who is not really that sociable but I really enjoy discovering and exploring new things through studies. I have also considered taking medicine, my childhood dream, but I sometimes ask myself if I could really meet the emotional, mental and physical demands of entering medical school. At present, our finances are limited because of the early retirement of my parents. God bless!

Confused Student

Recently, I was in a strategic planning workshop for Work Force, a television show I host over RPN. One of the production assistants fresh out of college echoed your concern. She mentioned that most of her batch mates are under extreme stress to find jobs. They are torn between their original course and the competencies they gained in college and the desire for economic stability. What is happening is widespread. Students take up courses without forecasting whether the demand in that field will grow in four to five years time, the time when they start to join the job market.

Manpower planning

I have always been an advocate for manpower planning. In our country, we put a high value to education. We know of many parents who sell properties to be able to afford college education for their children. Many of them are likely to be disappointed as their investment turns to ashes.

The challenge is how to channel our scarce resources, in this case, the funds for educating children to a sure investment that will provide a bright future for them. We have to read the trends in the future, where work is to be found. Better still, we propose that government at both national and local levels develops an integrative plan of action, considering not just local requirements but also global opportunities. We cannot ignore globalization; it is a reality.

Future trends

What are the clear trends that will impact future jobs? Recently, I came across some interesting materials from Drake Beam Morris that gives a picture of the future of work. One is the surge of entrepreneurs. "A look at the US economy shows that 90 percent of its work force are employed by small and medium sized companies." Our country shows a similar trend. Two, is the pervasive use of technology. Jeremy Rifkin in his book, "The End of Work" predicts that new thinking machines will be capable of performing many mental tasks performed by humans and at a greater speed.

A third trend-more related to your question-are the changing demographics. Medical advances have given rise to an aging population. United Nations predict the number of people worldwide who are 60 years or older currently totals around 629 million, mostly in developed countries.

Demographics

The aging demographics also mean the rise in demand for health care workers like nurses. So, if it is financial stability you desire, you can shift to nursing. Your parents and relatives are right. Based on our studies, for the next five to seven years, there will be continuing demand for nurses and other health workers, especially in the developed countries. I am sure, with your good command of English and intellectual capability, you are likely to make the grade. Seventy per cent of nurses applying for overseas work flunk the English proficiency exam. Furthermore, your knowledge in psychology can be applied to patient care.

Now how do you take care of your intellectual pursuits? The trend today is continuing and life long education. As a nurse, you can continue to study on the side, especially if you have the financial freedom that will allow you this luxury. Your goal should be an improved quality of life. Face the realities now and enjoy the freedom of lifestyle choices later. The decision is yours. Thanks for writing.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

What are the clear trends that will impact future jobs?

Global excellence...

From page B0

good people. As in other aspects of life, the good ones are usually taken.

What has been his most significant contribution to IBM so far? "I believe it's bringing in the Asian perspective and the perspective of an emerging market. I also have the advantage of being able to compare the local work ethic with that of other countries. I guess it's the same everywhere. Work ethic must start with the individual. He brings it to the workplace," says Quintos.

IBM history

IBM, considered the largest information technology supplier of hardware, software and services, is well entrenched and ingrained in the country. According to Quintos, the first Filipino users of computers used IBM. Among their original customers were GSIS, Bureau of Lands and commercial banks.

Quintos recounts that long before the age of technology, IBM was manufacturing clocks and weighing scales. Interestingly, IBM made the clock on the Manila City Hall tower.

Family

Quintos has a strong sense of family history. He recounts that his great grandfather, the first Joaquin Quintos, who was the personal physician of the late President Quezon, has a street along Roxas Blvd. named after him.

Quintos was born in Toledo, Cebu. His father, a chemical engineer, who was working for Atlas Fertilizers, was based there. Spending his formative years in the southern city, he studied grades one to three at the Andres Soriano Memorial School, which was run by La Salle and provided by the company for the children of its employees. Quintos finished elementary at La Salle Taft and high school at La Salle Greenhills. He has a degree in industrial engineering, graduating cum laude from the University of the Philippines.

Married 15 years, he is a father to two daughters, ages 13 and three. His hobbies are running and playing golf. He loves spending time with his family as well. Though hardworking, he makes it a point to leave his work in the office. Another no-no is too many social activities; he prefers to be with his family. He says that nowadays, to keep a good work-life balance, one has to work smart and work hard.

For a Pinoy who has achieved global excellence in his career, this is valuable advice indeed.

(Do you want to learn from Mr. Quintos' experiences? Mr. Quintos can be your career mentor. You can send your letters for him requesting for career advice to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph. He will answer your letters in the soon-to-be launched "Ask Your CEO" column, which eight topnotch CEOs will take turns writing.)

PNB

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 27, 2003 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2002 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on June 25, 2002
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2002
5. Approval of the 2002 Annual Report
6. Ratification of All Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2002 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
7. Election of Directors
8. Appointment of External Auditor
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2002 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from June 26, 2002 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of April 28, 2003 will be entitled to vote at this meeting.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a **PROXY** to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 22, 2003. A Proxy shall conform with the requirements of Sec. 58 of the Corporation Code, and shall be affixed with a duly paid documentary stamp tax in accordance of Sec. 192 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997.

Pasay City, March 21, 2003

RENATO J. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
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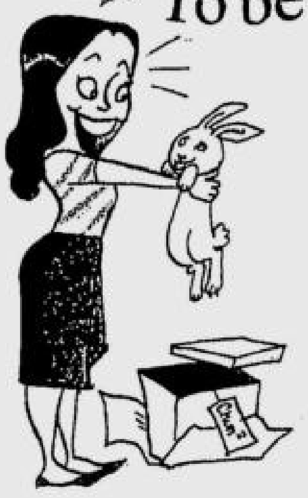
LIFESTYLE

goes broke



Money makes this silly world go round. That's what they all say. So what happens to your universe when you run out of cold, hard cash? No, it doesn't have to end. In this issue, we show you how to stretch what's left of your money, how to make more of it and how to avoid spending more. If you think the state of your wallet leaves you with no choice but be a hermit, think again. We've got ideas for dates, solo, 'barkada' and family gimmicks even if all you have left is P50. All these, because we know what it's like to be broke. We'll show you that being broke doesn't mean being miserable

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5 QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK YOURSELF BEFORE SPENDING BIG TIME

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Arlene M. Paredes
2bU! Correspondent

THESE are the days when students, or at least those students who are not taking summer classes, incessantly whine about not having enough cash to shell out for peer gimmicks, shopping or even watching a movie. It's understandable. When a school year ends, a student's wallet eventually begins to shrivel.

Lucky are those who were able to save money from the daily, weekly or monthly allowances they received from their parents throughout the school year. The fable about the diligent ant and the carefree grasshopper surely has a lesson to teach to students who don't know how to prepare for "rainy days," otherwise known as summer-vacation-without-allowance-from-parents. But even those who have savings ought to be very careful in spending during summer, lest their savings dry up before the break is over.

So before you cough out cash for that cute and colorful sneakers you saw in the mall, or before you even seriously consider buying anything at all at this time, think of the gains and losses you stand to inherit if and when you make the purchase.

2bU! now presents five questions to ask yourself before making a withdrawal from your bank account or asking your parents for money:

1. **Do I really need it?** Advertising, in whatever form, is the art of creating a need for a product, which may be old, new or a current fad. It makes it easy for you to believe that you need something. But if you only take time to think before deciding to buy, you'd often realize that there are popular, attractive and "extremely in" things which you can actually do without. You can save your money instead for a better purchase. That is one way to exercise wisdom in making choices.

Before coughing out cash for any big purchase this summer, think hard, lest your savings dry up too soon too fast

2. **Do I really need it now?** For instance, you want to buy a CD of this very famous band who released an album today. You are sure that their CDs would be out of stock tomorrow, so you'd rush right out to buy the CD today, right? Don't. Perhaps you have a couple of hundreds now. Count the number of days you have before you could receive daily allowance again. Now, do the math. Will you have enough money left? Still, if you won't be stopped, think of ways to last the remaining days of vacation and work out a plan to earn money so you wouldn't have to pester your parents. That is one way to be responsible in distinguishing between what you need, and what you simply want.

3. **Can I afford it?** We are often inclined to think that we deserve whatever we like. So we feel bad whenever we realize that we can't afford items which we think we deserve. It gets worse when you're already working and earning your own money. Sometimes, you feel you should be rewarding yourself with a "special item" because you've been working hard, but there you are, glaring bitterly at the nice pair of shoes you can't afford because there are "other things" to pay for (your phone bills, rentals, etc.). But don't sulk. If you can't afford it, don't punish yourself by wallowing in self-pity. Don't push your parents to buy it for you, too. If you want and need it badly, then, wait. Wait till you can afford to buy it. Wait till it goes on sale. Or look around and see if there's a similar design with a cheaper price. Don't rush to buy anything especially if you know you stand to lose a significant part of your budget for your payables. That is one way to help yourself make the most of what you have.

4. **Does its quality justify its price?** If you don't know how to inspect an item for quality, ask an "expert" friend to accompany you before making a purchase. In case you need a CD writer (CD-RW), for instance, to burn all your downloaded MP3s or software or to start a mini-business of recording songs for your friends, don't hit the computer stores if you're not confident yet about what you should know about CD writers. Ask a computer junkie friend to help you out. Or research about the product and make the rounds of shops to find the best price that suits your budget and quality requirements. That is one way to get yourself the best product for the least amount.

5. **Will this make me happy for a long time?** Whether you are rooting for a chic bag, a fabulous pair of shoes, or the latest CD, ask yourself if it's something that will make you happy for a long time. Inasmuch as short and meaningless affairs waste our time, any merchandise that doesn't captivate our heart for the long haul is a waste of money. If you see yourself cherishing a merchandise longer than the cumulative time you spend playing with your favorite pet, it might just be something that's worth your precious savings. Ask yourself the probable duration of your interest in the stuff you want to buy. That is one way to know that you certainly want something for good.

This coming school year, I'm pretty sure many students will jot down "I will really begin to save now!" in their journals. The good news is, it doesn't have to be an annual promise that you regularly fail. You can do it—even if you have to start with saving a peso a day until saving becomes second nature to you. By then, you will need another piggy bank to safeguard your hoard.

E-mail the author at lhen@postmark.net

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ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

How to s-t-r-e-t-c-h your allowance

By Saleema Devi Refran
2bU! Correspondent

THESE are times when getting money—and holding on to it—is really hard. By day's end, you wonder where the P100 you had earlier in your pocket has gone.

Well, you're not alone. A lot of students are in the same straits. That's why 2bU! has come up with these common-sense tips to help you stretch your allowance to its maximum limits.

Bring homemade *baon*. Okay, so what if the last time you brought packed food to school was in grade school? Times are tough, and it seems it's going to be that way for quite some time. Tell your classmates that you simply love your mom's cooking, or that your family fears that you might get sick from the food at school. Better yet, tell them the truth: You're saving your money and that's absolutely nothing to be ashamed of.

Save up! Get a coin bank, a big jar, anything where you can store your loose change. Empty your pockets of your coins every time and set them aside. Remember, one *beinte singko* is already one-fourth of your every *piso*.

Avoid unnecessary expenses. So your best friend is selling her April Boy Regino original CD at an unbelievable bargain. Stop yourself. Do you really need the CD? You may want to save your money for something else. Cut back on such unnecessary expenses. Don't buy things just because they're cute, you're addicted, or you believe you might somehow need them in the future. If you have the nasty habit of chocolate-shopping after school, consider it unhealthy, even sinful (gluttony is). In short, be practical. Buy only those that you really need.

Keep your receipts. Sometimes, we suddenly have to pay for something huge at school. When that happens, remember to keep the receipt. You can then show it to your mom and have it reimbursed. Put all your photocopying receipts together, and you'll be surprised at how much you spend on photocopying alone.

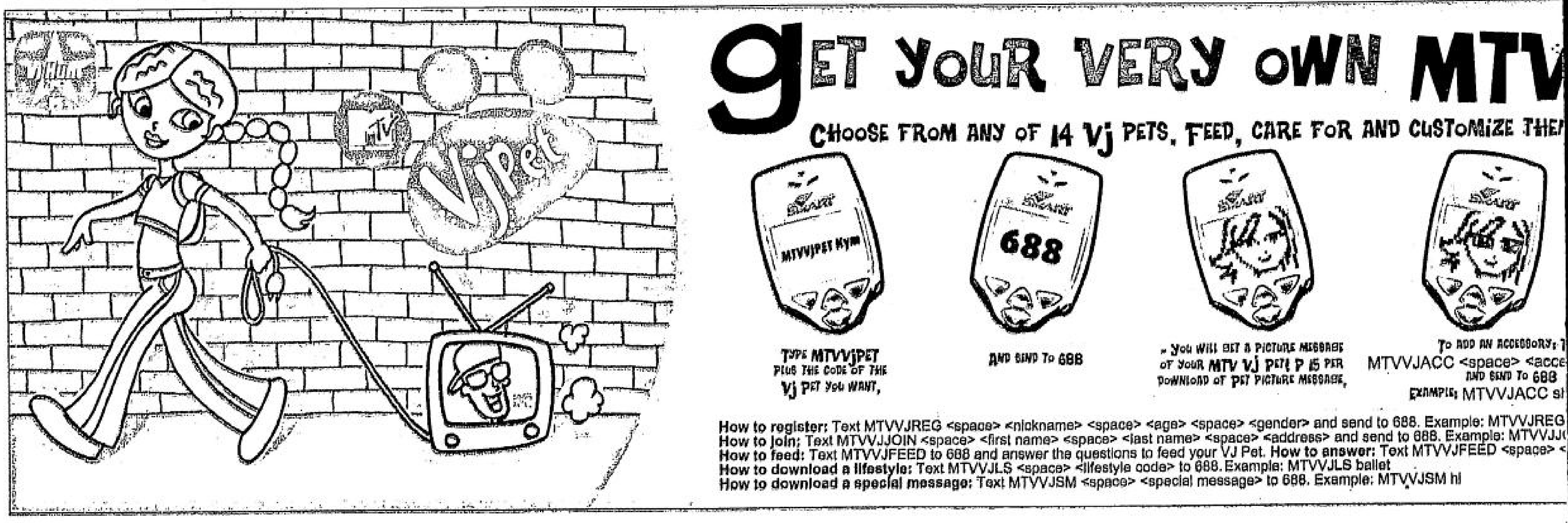
Try walking. Walking will not only reduce your traveling expenses, it will also keep you fit and healthy. Even if the distance is short, you often get on a jeepney because "it's *mainit*" or you don't want to ruin your shoes, right? Now, if you can take the heat and the assault on your shoes, begin walking. You save a lot on your transportation expenses this way.

Stay home. Nothing beats the security and comfort offered by your own home. So if you have absolutely nothing to do, why not just stay indoors? Remember how, every time you were at the mall, you ended up buying a lot of stuff on impulse? Now if you just stayed home, you wouldn't be killing yourself for buying—again!—a stupid bag worth half a week's allowance. Instead, spend the afternoon with your siblings. Play with your pet. Give your mom a manicure. Be useful. Who knows, your parents might actually reward you for being of help in the house for a change.

There's one other thing you can do: Ask your folks to increase your allowance. If you think that what you're getting isn't enough, sit down with your parents and explain your expenses to them (make sure you have valid receipts). Map out what you actually spend and ask for a bit of a buffer for those daily emergencies, like an unexpected expense. Thrift, like everything else, deserves serious strategizing.

Thanks to my very thrifty sister, Nina Refran, for her money-saving tips.

E-mail the author at s_a_l_e_e_m_a@yahoo.com



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What to do when you don't want to spend

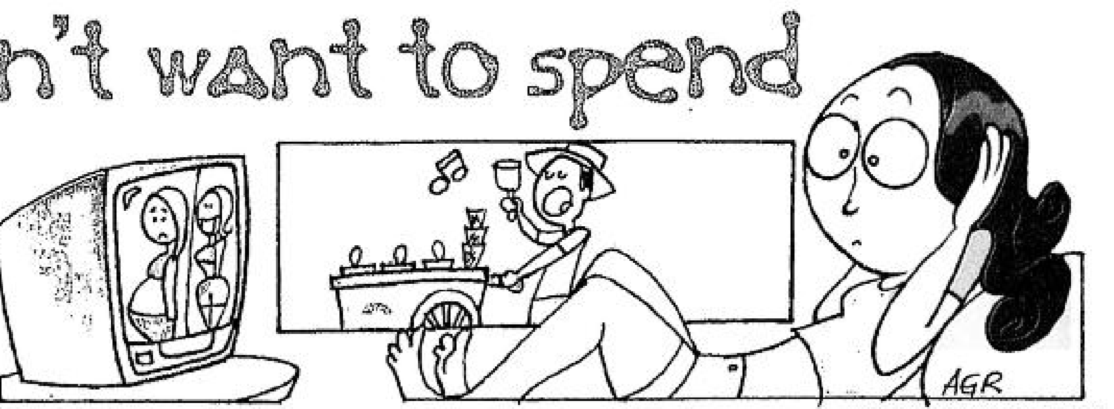

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

IF loaded with millions, most of us would naturally want to spend. But when times are truly trying and pockets have irreparable holes, we grab on to our last shiny centavo, no matter how irresistible it is to just buy something drool-worthy with it.

When you don't have enough and you don't want to spend, the following may prove to be beneficial.

Stay at home and be patient. You can save your money for better uses

Stay at home. Mang Kendong's *kalembang* (or Mr. Selecta's taped ringing) may be enticing, but resist it. Imagine all the clothes, books, CD's, etc. that could buy later. At least at home, you can do whatever you want and not spend a single centavo.

Aspire. Think of something grand that you can't buy with what you have and make your dream buy (be it a digicam with 3.2 megapixels or that blasted cell phone that resembles a remote control) your inspiration to save up.

Get it out of reach. Store your money somewhere, lock it and throw away the key. Let a family member keep it in the meantime and make her promise not give it to you. You can also deposit it to your ATM account so there's that extra effort to exert if you want to withdraw it.

Leave home without it. This way, you can satisfy your itchy feet and not touch your money. If you're having a difficult time leaving it, just think of all the thieves out there who could easily rob you of your crispy bills!

Reunite with your rich friends. If you will die if you don't get out, then by all means, leave your house but make sure you are very, very full or you are with financially successful friends who won't mind buying you lunch and dessert.

Divert. Why think of shopping, eating out or watching a movie, when you can watch infommercials, pig out on leftovers and see "Petrang Kabayo" on cable for the nth time—all for free!?

Delude yourself. Convince yourself that there will be a massive sale soon, where you can avail of good buys. Assume that someone else will buy you that book you want or that hotdog pillow you so want. Believe and be patient.

Think of the worst. What if a massive sale does come soon and you find yourself moolah-less? What if the Cheeky Girls drop by the country and you end up not seeing them because you can't afford even a jeepney ride? Hold these thoughts in your head and be inspired.

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com

P155 for 10 days

By Pam Pastor

Take it from a survivor: overcoming near-penury requires discipline, creativity, and a good battle plan

IT wasn't a bet. It wasn't a dare either. Twenty-four-year-old Jonathan, a programmer for a mobile applications company, just didn't have a choice.

An ultra-extravagant date which included dinner and a huge bouquet of flowers left only P155 in his wallet.

"I lost track of how much I spent. I thought I had more," he said.

The bad news—payday was 10 days away. This was in early April. It was like the universe had played an April Fool's joke on him.

Jonathan couldn't borrow money from his mother because, just a few days before that, she found out he was dating someone and had given him a long lecture. She told him, "Don't ask me for money if you run out because I don't have any money."

And so he didn't.

His battle plan was clean and simple.

"I took the jeep for the rest of the week. I made sure I brought lunch from the house. That was basically leftover breakfast."

He cut down on smoking too—and sacrificed his social life. "I went straight home from the office for ten straight days."

He didn't complain about it. He had mixed feelings. "I was depriving myself of life's simple pleasures, but at the same time, I had no choice. I just had to deal with it."

The way he looked at things helped. "Ten days is nothing compared to what other people have gone through. They've gone through longer stretches of time without money."

The hardest part for him was discipline. "You're used to doing something and you can't. So you have to find another way. You want to go out and relax with friends but you really have to find ways to entertain yourself."

So Jonathan listened to music, played the guitar and went to bed early.

"When you have the money, you take things for granted. But when you fall short, everything counts."

But the girl he was dating didn't understand at first.

"She thought I was mad at her. *Wala kasi akong pang reload ng* prepaid card, *wala akong pang*-date, *kahit pambisita sa bahay niya* or *pangsundo sa* office *niya*."

But he got out of hot water. "when I explained to her what happened, she was amused. And she appreciated what I did. It made her smile."

On the 10th day, he finally got his money. "I was so relieved. Other people rely on what I earn, too. It felt good to be able to help out with the family expenses."

Aside from helping with the bills, a portion of his salary goes to small treats for his family.

Jonathan has learned his lesson. Now, he's more careful about how he spends his money. "Now I think twice about where and how I'm going to spend my money."

He has three tips for people who might just find themselves in his shoes.

"You need discipline. It's a must. If you have just enough money to survive until the next payday, you better have enough self-control to stick to your game plan."

"Two, try to survive without borrowing money. If you can't avoid it, try to minimize the amount you borrow. Small amounts are easier to pay off."

"Three, think of alternatives and substitutes."

Listen to him, he knows what he's talking about.

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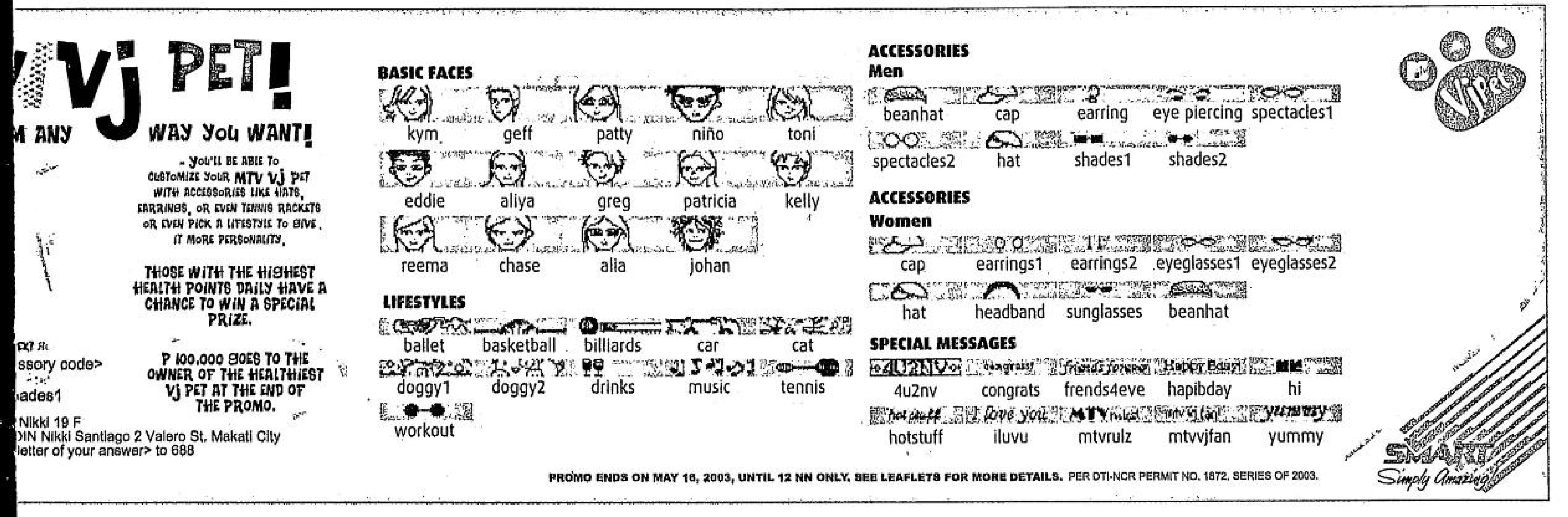
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reema chase alia johan
LIFESTYLES
ballet basketball billiards car cat
doggy1 doggy2 drinks music tennis
workout
ACCESSORIES
Men
beanhat cap earring eye piercing spectacles1
spectacles2 hat shades1 shades2
ACCESSORIES
Women
cap earrings1 earrings2 eyeglasses1 eyeglasses2
hat headband sunglasses beanhat
SPECIAL MESSAGES
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hotstuff iluvu mtvrulz mtvvjfan yummy
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Per DTI-NCR permit No. 1782 Series of 2003.

2bU! to be you to be young to be you! To be you!
LIFESTYLE

Things money can't buy

Who cares if your pockets are empty? The best things in life come without price tags

By the 2bU! staff

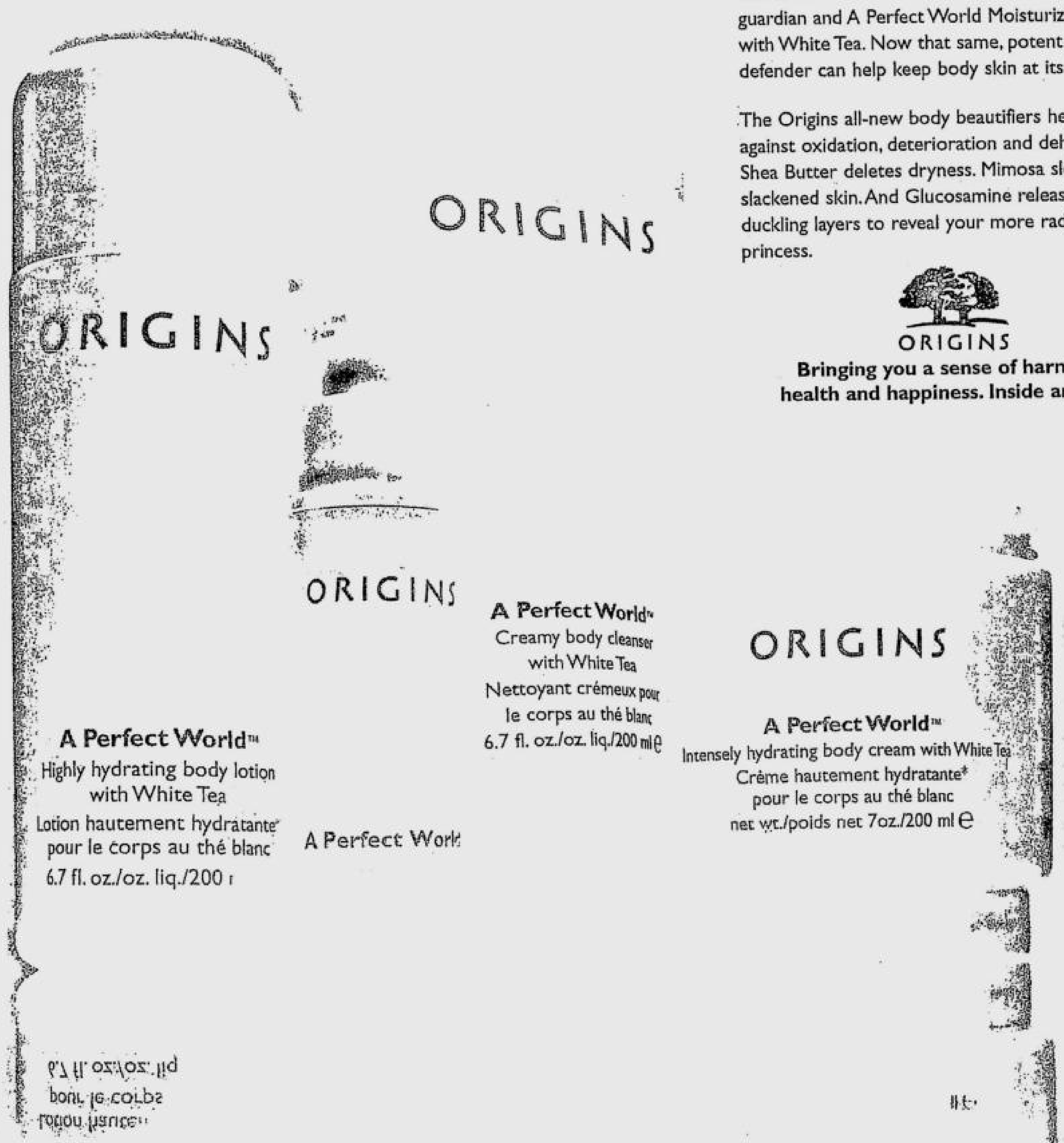
THE WORLD is so obsessed with money. Almost everything comes with a price. This little fact is enough to bring people down, especially when we're not exactly swimming in cash. Oftentimes, when we're broke and feeling desperate, we have to be reminded that the most beautiful things in the world are those that no amount of money can ever buy.

So it doesn't matter if we don't have the perfect condominium, the swimming pool, the flashy car and the shopping sprees abroad. These things make us feel rich:

ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

1. First kisses.
2. Getting to a class late and realizing that the professor isn't there yet.
3. The loyalty of good friends.
4. Getting out of a bad relationship.
5. Seeing an old friend after a long time.
6. The feeling of sand on your toes.
7. Lying on the grass and staring at the sky.
8. Having meaningful conversations that last well into the night.
9. A shoulder to cry on.
10. A baby's smile.
11. Love.
12. Forgiveness.
13. Taking your shoes off after an exhausting day.
14. A back rub from someone you love.
15. A good night's sleep.
16. How a good song can really, really affect you.
17. A letter from a loved one.
18. Drinking the night before and waking up without a hangover.
19. Big warm hugs.
20. The triumph of finishing a project.
21. A perfectly delivered punchline.
22. Text messages from your crush.
23. Having a crush.
24. Heartfelt laughter.
25. Reading old letters.
26. Saying "I love you" and meaning it.
27. Having someone tell you "I love you" and knowing he or she means it.
28. Dogs wagging their tails at you.
29. Winning a contest.
30. Holding your loved one's hand.
31. Falling in love.
32. People remembering your birthday.
33. Dancing in the rain.
34. Water fights.
35. Photographs of your childhood.
36. A job offer.
37. Waking up early on a Monday and finding out that school has been cancelled.
38. Passing a test you were sure you were going to fail.
39. Having your friends trust you with their secrets.
40. Belonging.
41. A nice hot bath.
42. Surprises.
43. Going home at 6 a.m. with a smile plastered on your face.
44. Watching the sunrise and watching the sunset.
45. Finding something you've been looking for for ages.
46. People loving what you cooked.
47. The perfect landing.
48. Conquering a fear.
49. Appreciation.
50. Having people listen.
51. Nicknames—nice ones.
52. Beautiful dreams.
53. Marriage proposals.
54. Hope.
55. Beating a deadline.
56. Playing dress up.
57. Singing in the shower.
58. Seeing your answering machine's light blinking when you come home at night.
59. Growing up.
60. Your mother saying beautiful things about you.
61. Waking up happy.
62. The magic of words.
63. Rebuilding broken relationships.
64. Meeting someone you've always admired.
65. Getting star-struck.
66. Coming up with harmless pranks.
67. Playing matchmaker.
68. Flirting.
69. Being able to curl up beside grandma.
70. A photograph of yourself that you actually like.
71. Your grandparents' stories about the

THINGS/ D2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What goes on in the mind of a teenage boy?

Niño Mark Sablan
& September Mahino

DEAR Sep and Mark,

I like this guy, Kenneth. Here's the problem: we go to the same school, and we belong to the same school club. We've talked a few times, but we've never really established a friendly rapport between us. My friends and I all agree that Kenneth is a very shy and quiet fellow. So shy that he doesn't say hi to me in the hallways. In fairness to him, I also get shy, conscious and tongue-tied. But we have small talk during club meetings. And I mean small talk.

My questions are: How do I make friends with him? I'm quite close to my other clubmates, but not to him. What's the safest approach so that he won't get intimidated or suspicious?

I guess these questions apply more to Mark: How does a girl know if a boy has a crush on her? What are a boy's actions toward the girl he likes? Do those actions include frequent stolen looks at the girl, and shyness toward her? How does a boy react when, or if, he finds out that a girl likes him? I know that boys are different, and they have different reactions. So what goes on in the mind of a teenage boy?

TRISTA DANIELLE

Sorry but I just have to be not-so in chronological order and answer your last question first. Ahem. Sex, sex, and even more sex. Now that we're through with that, I can proceed with the other parts of your letter.

Firstly, a person's shyness can mean anything. Maybe he digs your brother or your mother and this is why he can't look you in the eye for more than a nanosecond. If you're lucky, his shyness can mean he created your image in his cell phone's picture editor and is too shy to admit it. But do you feel it deep in your heart that he is indeed shy? Maybe you simply don't exist in his world. A thought to ponder.

Regarding the small talk, don't be a sissy and let it remain small. Stroke it and make it bigger. Do it often, and longer. The safest way to go around it is to simply pertain to club stuff—until you feel that you've broken the great wall between you. After that, you can definitely tackle more personal stuff like your desired M&M color or favorite "That's Entertainment" member.

Warning: Don't assume. Don't assume he unconditionally loves you if he initiates a conversation. Don't assume he wants to marry you if you hear him mention Mary Poppins. Don't assume you've demolished the great wall if he starts adding another syllable to his monosyllabic replies.

If a boy digs you, he'll tell you. Except when he's deaf or terminally shy. Of course, there are the sideway glances, almost smiles and uncalled-for attention. Girl, you will know, and you don't need to have a pyramid on your head or a certificate from one of Jaime Licauco's seminars for you to do so.

When a dude discovers you salivate for him, there are a number of more than usual reactions. If you are the main character in his wet and dry dreams, he can envelope you in his strong muscular arms and maybe grab a megaphone and announce his latest conquest. If he thinks you look like Freddie Krueger, he can treat you like a practically ignored chainsaw and maybe grab a megaphone for *yabang* purposes.

Now let me return to your final question. I'd still say that sex resides in the mind of a teenage boy, but somewhere else there are also questions like yours. Inquiries about the opposite sex, requests for information on how to make an impressive impression, queries, queries, queries.

Take it from me. I used to be a man. I mean a boy.

MARK

> Why, sex, sex and more sex, of course! And some other important stuff, too

Trista, I heartily agree that Mark is the one who should answer your questions. I have been asking myself the very same questions ever since I discovered that, as much as I like boys, they're one group of people that are quite difficult to understand. And to be frank, up to this day, I'm still clueless.

As for planning a strategy that won't scare your crush away, I would like to share with you an insight that is new to me but has actually been used by girls for ages: Be friendly. Or, more appropriately in your case, be friendlier.

It sounds worthless, I know, given that that is exactly what you have been striving to do all this time. But for once, why don't you try being friendly with him without second-guessing yourself to death? What I mean by this is that you should stop thinking that your crush is one sensitive soul that needs to be treated with kid gloves, because he is not. As shy as he is, he's just like any person who must be susceptible to the charms of good-natured friendly people.

Thinking of him as some sort of delicate deer that would bolt at the slightest attempt at closeness is exactly what is stopping you from developing a better relationship with him, and continuing to do so won't help you any.

Forget tactics and guiles for a moment. Let him know you're interested by being sincerely interested, and to hell if that's not the usual way that "nice" girls go. If that sounds too much for you, ask a clubmate to act as a buffer first and then progress from small talk to medium-sized talk. The important thing is that you work on developing a relationship without focusing too much on the scary what-ifs that would prevent you from doing anything productive, or worse, prevent you from letting him see how wonderful you really are.

You already have good intentions. The next thing to do is to act on them. And if your crush proves to be too much of a boy to take in stride your interest in him, then ask yourself what is wrong with him and not what is wrong with you.

Take it from me. I've been there, done that, and guys who can't handle a simple crush are not worthy losing sleep and self-confidence over.

SEP

Things money can't buy

From page D1

past.

72. Requited love—or even crush.
73. Trust.
74. Having someone singing for you.
75. That moment when a perfect idea hits you.
76. Having your old jeans fit again.
77. Making up after a fight.
78. Rereading your favorite book.
79. Getting your priorities straight.
80. Having a friend call the exact same moment you thought about calling him or her.
81. Perfect naps.
82. People noticing the effects of your diet and gym routine.
83. Indulging in your passion.
84. Knowing that people are happy to see you.
85. Running into your old teachers and realizing they still remember you.
86. The relief that washes over you on the last day of school.
87. Peace of mind.
88. Family.
89. Not missing your favorite TV show.
90. Opening the fridge and discovering they left one slice of cheesecake just for you.
91. Sincere compliments.
92. Receiving a long-distance call from someone you've been missing.
93. Tripping over your own feet and looking up to see that no one noticed.
94. Finally memorizing the lyrics of your new favorite song.
95. Being able to play your first musical instrument.
96. Snuggling under the covers.
97. Meeting fascinating new people who find you fascinating, too.
98. Reading other people's journals—with their permission.
99. Finding a gem of an e-mail from someone you actually want to hear from buried in a pile of work-related e-mails.
100. Falling asleep in a loved one's arms.

Dad, someone's been autoloading my phone
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It's never too early to secure your financial future

By Margot Aissa C. Tan
2bU! Correspondent

YOU'RE never too young to start working toward future financial security. Why not start considering the world of investment?

Regardless of your age (although you could not sign contracts unless you are at least 18 years of age), gender, or current income level, you could start fattening up your personal bank account and may even help avert an economic crisis.

The term investment does not mean you should limit yourself to stock-market trading or real-estate purchases. Besides, I don't think you have enough money to make those transactions. Well, at least not yet (*iyan ang fighting spirit*).

Investment does not have to be complicated and difficult even if you lack experience and have pressing academic and extracurricular concerns. Although it would be great if you could participate in the Philippine Stock Exchange trading, there are many simple, practical and often overlooked alternatives for ordinary people to become good investors.

For starters, be a smart saver. This is not just a basic rule in investing, but should also be the daily mantra and practice of every Filipino who dreams to more than just get by.

Spend only for what you really need so you can save, and make your savings earn even more. Skip a night out and forgo those cups of overpriced coffee whose logo is a woman with a bad hair day.

You'd be surprised at how much money you'd have at the end of the week. Have a ledger to keep track of your expenses and make sure that whenever you take money from your wallet, you're doing so only because it's needed.

The savings from little sacrifices, if invested wisely, can earn big during your life span. Never underestimate the power of a single peso, even if a thousand pesos feel like only a hundred nowadays.

Investment doesn't mean only stock-market trading or real-estate purchases

CULTURE CRASH
DARNA
ILLUSTRATION ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

So forget about buying that cute shirt—think how much a piece of cloth would be worth after 10 years of *bareta* and *tubig-poso* abuse. On the other hand, consider how much a thousand pesos today, compounded at 3 percent per annum, would be worth in 10 years. While the cloth is reduced to *trapo*, the money smells nice.

Maximize your rate of return on investments (ROI). By getting an additional 1-2 percent ROI over a long period of time, your earnings would increase significantly. It is important shop around to find out which banks have better deals, better programs and better rates of return.

Make sure everything is clear to you before trusting your money to anyone. I would suggest you observe the rule of 72. You can find out how long it will take to double your money simply by dividing 72 by the rate of return. For example, at 3 percent, it will take 24 years to double your principal because 72/3=24, at 6 percent it will take 12 years, at 8 percent it will take nine years, and so on.

If you're not satisfied with what the bank gives and you want a higher ROI on your principal (often the case when the inflation rate is greater than the interest rate because, in a sense, you're actually losing money since you have less purchasing power), you have to take the time to understand the various risks involved in buying bonds, investing in stocks, etc.

Maximize yield and minimize risk. As the saying goes, don't put all your eggs in one basket. Diversification is important in asset allocation. If you plan to buy stocks, it would be advisable to buy from different industries. You have to spread your money and put it in different types of investments.

You can do the same with your physical assets. Diversify the commodities and collectibles that you own. Don't spend all your money on gold and diamonds, basketball card collection or collector's edition Barbie dolls hoping their value would increase over time. Although there is a possibility of that, it doesn't make sense to put your financial life on the line for pieces of glossy cardboard and blonde women with literally just air between their ears.

You know you've put your money to waste when . . .

By Bunny Anne Gapit
2bU! Correspondent

- YOU sleep at a movie house.
- you text someone who doesn't reply.
- you treat someone out, and he or she forgets to thank you.
- your VCD skips.
- your balloon pops or flies even before your recipient gets to lay eyes on it.
- you trip in the food court while carrying your tray of victuals.
- there's too much ice in your drink.
- you barf what you just ate.
- what you've eaten gives you LBM.
- you break up two months after your grandiose wedding.
- your pen runs out of ink before it's supposed to.
- you send a truant kid to school.
- you sponsor a talentless, "future-less" kid to a workshop.
- you see the person you abhor the most wear the same article of clothing you have.
- the *pasalubong* meant for your *inaanak* is consumed by someone else.
- your crush doesn't even notice your new shirt or haircut.
- you overcook.
- the person you bribed doesn't vote for you.
- your feet hurt because of your new shoes.
- your film gets exposed.
- your hairdo resembles a *walis tambo* after coming out of a hair-straightening salon.
- you manage to get someone pregnant despite using condoms.
- your armpits still sweat heavily despite using the most expensive deodorant around.
- you still stain your panties during periods, despite using the best napkins around.
- you cake-fight.
- you ride a taxicab.
- your annoying brother preys on your Vodka Mud Shake after you've cooled it for some time in the fridge.
- your househelp runs away with your

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What have you learned from being broke?

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

YOU went overboard with your shopping or your paycheck was late or too many bills were due. Now your pockets are empty and you feel desperate. Different people find different solutions. Some people borrow from their friends, others ask their parents for cash. Others make do with the coins they have left, others wait for the next paycheck to come.

Everyone has experienced being broke at one point or another.

But what sets these people apart are the lessons they learned from being out of cash.

What about you? What have you learned from being broke?

The experience has taught me the value of money and that I should keep track of my expenses.—**JM, 20**

That it's constant.—**Blue Arden, 22**

Matutong magtipid.—**Robin, 18**

I'm broke because I'm a fresh graduate, I don't have a job and my parents won't give me money anymore. I resist impulses to shop and avoid purchasing things I already have.—**5h1n3, 21**

It taught me not to spend too much and if ever I would, spend my money on something useful.—**Ed, 22**

I discovered many ways to get money from my parents. Heehee.—**Gabby Libarios, 20**

I learned to be more anticipating, if not to allocate funds when what's incoming is still not sure. I've also learned that saving just a little bit from time to time can "save" you at the toughest of times.—**JR Ignacio, 22**

I learned that I should spend wisely and keep my expenses in check. I still get short sometimes but not as often as before.—**Jon, 24**

It taught me to save at least a little amount so that I can use it in case of emergency.—**Chokies, 24**

It taught me that there are some things in life I could do without.—**Alan**

That it's hell.—**Joey**

That you don't need money to be happy.—**Claire, 22**

Money is a necessity.—**Katkat, 16**

That the lack of money can immobilize you.—**Luke, 22**

To be thankful I have a home. If I were broke and homeless, I would probably just give up.—**Ria, 19**

To be more careful with my money.—**Tara, 17**

That malls are evil. They're the apple in my Garden of Eden.—**Lumina, 24**

You can still have fun even when your pockets are empty.

Love will keep me going on.—**Alex, 22**

Sometimes, too much too soon isn't all that great. Patience must be extended even in financial terms.—**Tim**

Well, I'm always broke. It taught me to save money and be satisfied with what I have.—**Leidy, 21**

That the rush after buying something expensive is nothing compared to the difficulty of having empty pockets.—**Kate, 21**

That there is life without money.—**Marty, 19**

Money is evil. I'm nothing without it.—**Dan, 18**

It taught me that I'm not as independent as I think.—**Sugar, 21**

That being rich is a state of mind.—**Pajammers, 22**

That my girlfriend isn't just after my money.—**Carlo, 23**

Pam Pastor

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You know . .

From page D2

alkansya.

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- there's a hole in the plastic bag containing your soft drink.
- the aircon's been working and the windows are open.
- a large chunk of your ice drop drops before you.
- you're no fairer even after using whitening products for more than three months.
- a not-so-dear-friend samples the food you ordered using you own spoon.
- you go to the other side of the world to buy something that turns out to be expired by the time you reach home.
- you shut your eyes when in Enchanted Kingdom's Rialto or when watching gory horror flicks.
- you buy shoes for infants who can't walk yet.
- you purchase an artist's original CD based only on his or her present hit.

E-mail the author@keewich@yahoo.com

Amusement center offers key to treats

AT TIMEZONE family amusement center, a Powercard is not only your swipe-anywhere entry, it's also your key to treats.

Recently, Timezone has devised a solution to those who find it a hassle collecting paper tickets from redemption games.

Timezone has introduced the latest in Powercard Technology and it's called Power Tickets now offered at Greenbelt 3.

After swiping your Powercard, tickets from redemption games will electronically be credited onto it.

In claiming prizes, you simply have to present A Powercard loaded with ticket credits at the prize counter of the center.

All paper tickets can still be redeemed for prizes within 12 months.

However, you can still use your paper tickets anytime in other Timezone branches.

Timezone is also located at Glorietta 4 and 2 and Greenbelt 1 of Ayala Center, at the 3rd Floor Expansion Mall and Cinema-Ground Floor of Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center Cebu, Greenhills Theater, Megamall Basement, Starmall and Metropoint.

Mallwide sale

AT ROBINSONS Malls, earn the chance to win instant prizes plus gift certificates in a raffle draw. These will take place on May 16, 17 and 18 during Robinsons' three-day mallwide sale.

Lumina Visa cardholders have a greater chance of winning if they make one-time-charged purchases.

Call 632-7672, 633-7641 to -90 local 175 or 176.

'Barkada' gimmicks that are easy on the pocket

By Anne Rose Elicaño
2bU! Correspondent

BEING a college student and freelance writer, money is often a concern so I try to live within my means. I go on gimmicks with my friends like your average 19-year-old, but avoid events that are overrated and overpriced. That doesn't mean they are unexciting.

Interesting gimmicks are waiting out there if you know how and where to look. Spoken-word readings and live-band performances cost as low as P100, with a consumable drink, too.

Last Saturday, two of my friends from 2bU! and I were asked to find gimmicks for a *barkada* at certain prices. This is the result of our sleuthing.

P100

The great gasoline station convenience store food trip. A signature coffee joint stood beside the gas station. Cathy craved coffee because of the sudden downpour and because we wanted a quiet place to talk. But P100 would only get a mug of coffee and maybe a brownie to be shared by the three of us.

As that would only leave us hungry, the convenience store suddenly looked inviting, especially with bright lights shining on rows of chips, candy and other foodstuff. The store had a food stall inside and some tables outside so we opted to eat there and hang around for a while.

Cathy got her coffee for P40 while Tammy and I bought a bag of pretzels and a candy bar. Our total purchases were well within the P100 range.

Going on a food trip in a gas station convenience store has a certain appeal because you don't have to dress up for this gimmick or try to be fashionably late. It felt good to loosen up and have that overdue talk with Tammy and Cathy over a bag of pretzels.

Being naturally curious, I was also fascinated by the people who entered the store and the cars that stopped by the station. What were their stories? Where were they going?

I began to understand why Jack Kerouac, my favorite Beat author, drew inspiration from gasoline stations and highways. By the way, he experienced being broke, too.

Other things a *barkada* can do for P100:
- Watch a movie in one of the film festivals at places like the Cultural Center of the Philippines and Shangri-La Mall. Sometimes, entrance is free or discounted (I watched "Bend It Like Beckham" in the cinema for P30).
- School organization-sponsored events
- Badminton or basketball at a sports center

P300

The home-bound gimmick. Tammy, Cathy and I agreed that the most natural thing to do when one was broke was to just stay at home. It would be masochistic to go to a mall or any place teeming with things you wanted but couldn't buy.

So many things can be done within the confines of the house. Just think of former high school buddies Mike Einziger, Alex Katunich, Jose Pasillas and Brandon Boyd (the original members of Incubus) experimenting with some tunes in a garage in 1991. Not all *barkadas* are headed for collective greatness and fame, but that doesn't mean you can't stay at home with your friends and have a good time.

In Tammy's house, we used our P300 to rent videos and order takeout food. After the eating, videothon and talking, Cathy played the piano for a bit. I don't think we're going to be releasing any hit records soon but we still had fun with only P300 among ourselves.

Other things a *barkada* can do for P300:
- Wall-climbing
- Group karaoke
- Watch a stand-up comedy act

E-mail the author at elicaño_ar@yahoo.com

When it comes to doing things with friends, it's always the company, never the budget, that matters

CONVENIENCE store food trip

good things can happen even when you're broke

By Cathy Young
2bU! Correspondent

MENTALLY drained from a gruelling chemistry exam, I was not in the mood to socialize. The only thing I was looking forward to when given this assignment was seeing Tammy and Anne Rose again. There's nothing like being in the company of good friends.

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It was a challenge therefore to come up with creative and worthwhile ways to spend P50.

As I was feeling a bit antisocial that night, Tammy, Anne Rose and I decided to go stargazing. Or at least tried to. The night was oddly chilly considering the dry season was not over and the sky looked like it was blanketed in fog. We craned our necks and tried to look for celestial bodies that were hidden by the tall buildings of one of Metro Manila's notoriously expensive areas.

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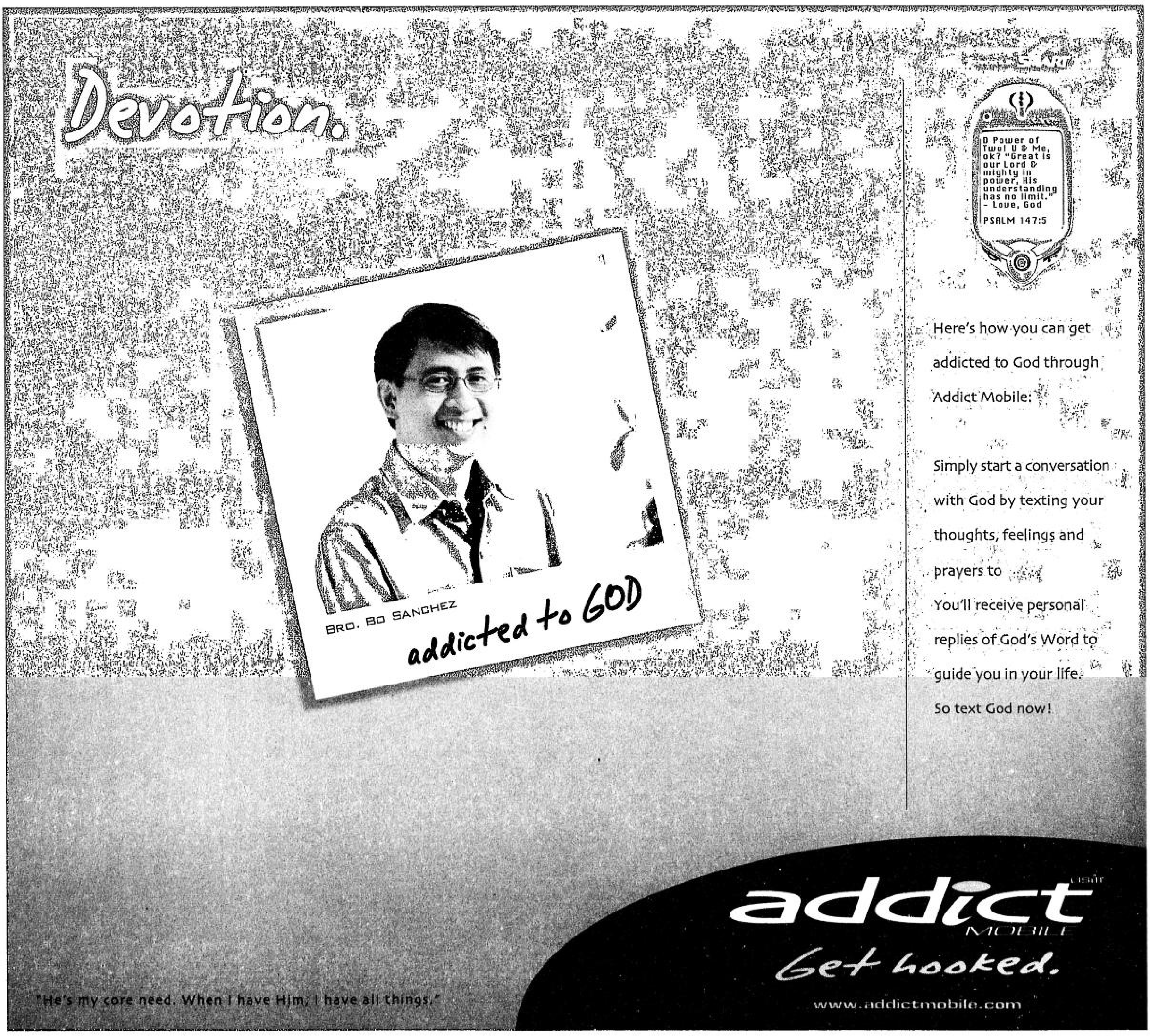
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LIFESTYLE

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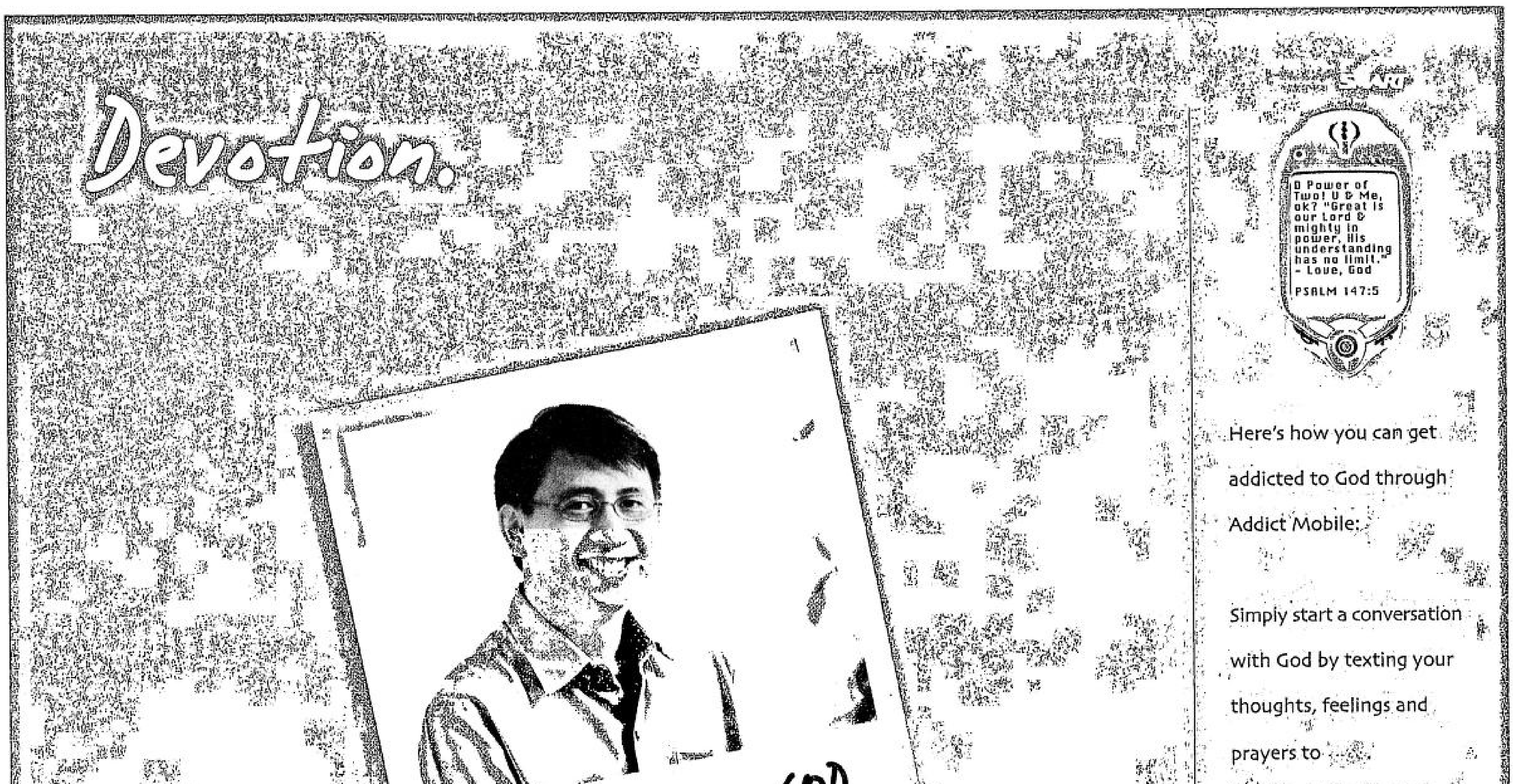
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HOT 'N' CRISPY. Jackie Twitt and Rianen Halley raise the roof.

DO blondes have more fun? Amy and Lara at Club V

UNITED COLORS. Stephanie Robinson and Tracy Bumgarner

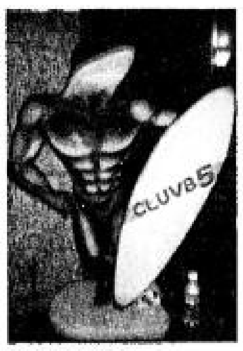
HUG-A-LUG. Berna and Shara groovin' to R&B/hip hop.

HIP-HOPPIN'. Lorraine Reynold and Allan Tom at K Swiss event

KOOL DUDES. Brian Marcelo and his hoppin' pal

I love the '80s

Tim Yap


SHARKY'S REVENGE. With MTV and K Swiss

AND who doesn't? It was an era marked by shoulder pads, gold hoop earrings and sappy daytime soaps. Most people remember it for bad hair and fashion. But hey, in a world that is so consumed with getting it right, it's actually nice to reminisce an era when it was okay to be wrong, right?

More than the style iconography, it was a time when people relied on instinct and were heavy into exploration. As a young boy glued to my "Saturday Fun Machine," I would observe my sisters as they Aquanet away their hair, wearing their frou-frous, before heading to their night-outs.

From music to parties and fashion, the '80s have made a big and bold comeback.

In London, everyone is wearing leg warmers (give it some time, and fashionistas and victims alike are bound to don it over here—you'll see). New York is into tracksuits—think J. Lo and Juicy Couture—ghetto fab, fab, fab.

LOVE TIMES THREE. Margauxh Naluz, Karlo Enriquez and Rhency Padilla at Club V

Escape entertainment

Style nowadays is more about whim than function. It's time for some play. We have most of what we need, anyway (the basics, at least). So, who needs another logo maniac-ed bag? Another vintage-inspired shoe? If we have all the necessities, then what we are going to look for is that which entertains us. Escape, if that's what you want to call it.

Music-wise, the trend is infusing '80s hits with house beats, or something inspired from that era. From "Billy Jean" to "Shiny Disco Ball," its about time for instant replay, isn't it?

In parties, last week's "Spirit of '87" bash for dandy man **Patrick Reyno** was one blast from the past I'll never forget.

Miguel Rosales spruced up Acquario's halls with pop-artsy touches and the guests came in "Miami Vice" and "Dynasty" glam.

Ageless icons **Maurice Arcache** and **Philip Cu-Unjieng** came in their own authentic gear, while **Tina Tinio** raided her mom's Azabaches to come up with her version of the '80s. **DJ Montano** came as a punk rocker.

We all sang "Long, long distance love affair," and put our collars high—and our hair even higher—while trying to figure if we mismatched our shoes, in true "Bagets" style.

"Just got lucky..." I still can't get it out of my head. Ooops, that's Kylie.

Got some love?

Talking about the '80s, I wore my white K Swiss sneaks on my way to the next party. It felt weird entering the vicinity of the former Louie's THX, now renamed Premier, which still shows THX quality movies day in and out.

Then again, I was in that area for a different reason. Premier's lobby now houses Club V, where MTV and K Swiss toured the last leg of their "Got Love" R&B and hip-hop series.

With just the right amount of '80s rehash, the "must-have" white sneakers is making its way here in our town via the R&B/hip-hop route, with an uninhibited pack of guys and dolls willing to get down and go "diggitty" with it, from Culture Club to Blue Onion to Club V, where the K-Swiss trail took the young hip-hopping scenesters.

The MTV VJ hunt finalists blabbed away, clad in K Swiss gear, as they made sure they scored points with their wit and quirky cuteness.

Now back to the shoe. In London, they're releasing a limited edition designer shoe, which is very much anticipated by the Brit style set. Expect it to sell like pancakes, especially in Japan.

That night, the crowd was full-on, and up for it. The scene was full of young 'uns—hip hop scenesters and I.S. cuties—grinding their bodies and just having fun. Another circle would have breakdancers practicing their spins while girls and guys ogled at one another and boozed the night away.

This week's hot, hot, hot!

Tonight, Rustan's U launches its steaming summer collection at Acquario with a Hawaiian floral-themed *pah-tee*.

Friday is the finals night of the MTV VJ hunt at the Rockwell sunken gardens. Whoever wins, grabs the title of the latest "it" guy or gal.

The same night, Azzurro at Sommerset holds its grand opening party. Saturday, Big Fish has its giant Hed Kandi party with DJ **Mark Doyle** (the founder himself) at the NBC Tent while **Erich Edralin** holds the adrenalin at Dreambar 6750.

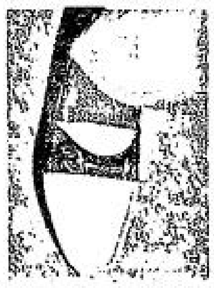
If you feel it's too much for a partyphile (then again, when is it ever too much?), then head over to The Fort at 8 p.m. and watch for free "XXX" on Friday or "8 Mile" on Saturday for the Globe Gentxt movie screenings, which are part of the MTV Movie Awards.

You can also escape to Boracay for the weekend—it's the 16th anniversary party of Bora institution Cocomangas. They're having a series of parties from Friday to Saturday, which for sure will extend up until Sunday sunrise. Now is *the* best time to take those 16 shooters!

With all these hot happenings, you know what I want to do? Just like John Travolta in "Staying Alive," I just want to strut.

CHECKERED POLKA. Xeng Zulueta and Celine Lopez

K SWISS hostess Anne Matoto

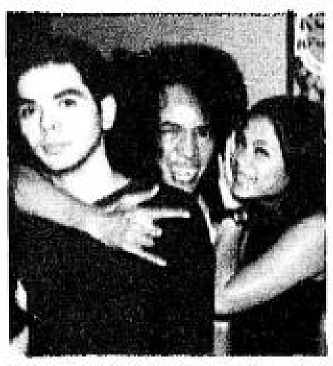

PHILIP'S vintage Guccis

PURR, PURR. Tina's sole seduction

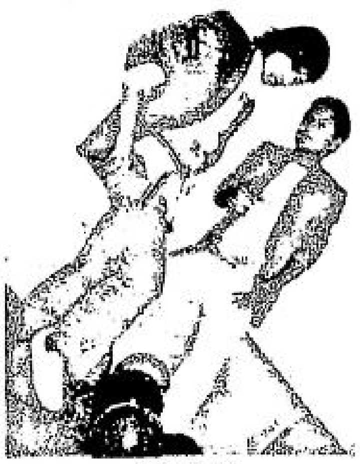
PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

HEAR IT FOR THE GIRL! Tina Tinio in Mary Ann's Azabaches

KLUB SWISS. Andrea Phillips, Xara Fuentes and buddy Natalia


VJ HUT. Nino Tupas, Johann Ekedum and Reema Chanco

KLUB POSE. Bong Paderna, Sigrid Villamil and Gary Parson pose with MTV VJ finalists Patty Laurel, Eddie Mendez, Kym de Guzman and Greg Martin at Blue Onion in Eastwood


MALATE VICE. Yaparazzi with Migs Rosales

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

CHUT Cuerva recalls his '80s moments.

GOT SOME LOVE? The K Swiss hip-hop scene in action

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good things can happen even when you're broke

TAKE a walk with your friends.

From page E1

to help ease my stress and get me psyched up for an exam the following week as we walked.

We had already talked about almost everything under the sun and boredom was starting to set in, when we saw a few meters ahead, a movie screen showing "Spider-Man." It turned out to be a free drive-in movie—perfect for broke people like us. There were wooden platforms with pillows for us to sit on and watch the movie in comfort.

Initially, we thought we spent only P50, or even less, which went into the cans of soda we bought before the movie. But we decided we also had to include gas money in our list of expenses, bringing our total experience that evening to around P200. for that night. Working on a tight budget obviously needed a lot more concentration. Makati traffic alone almost quadrupled our expenses.

If anything, the experience made me decide to save more. There are expenses that are so basic and necessary, such as transportation, we normally don't pay much attention to them and forget to take them into account when we think of our budget.

E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com

'barkada' fun for p1,000

By Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

FOR ME, a thousand bucks would be the perfect budget for a trio. We headed for the mall (the *tambay*-dinner-movie routine) since a thousand is not enough for a gimmick out of town or the local amusement park. We're not into bars, preferring to have good ol' chats in quiet places instead of clubbing.

Being the certified mallrat in the bunch, I chose Ayala Center in Makati. We spent most of our time window-shopping. Our visit to a lot of shops made us want to save our money and go home instead. Cathy and Anne wanted to buy a lot of books while I wanted to buy food. So we went to Greenbelt to have dinner in one of the hot restaurants there. We budgeted our money by setting aside P330 for a meal for each person, leaving us with P10.

Since we were very conscious about our limited budget, we skipped appetizers and desserts and just had the main course. We also decided to forego the drinks knowing they could usually set you back quite a bit. I never took so much time reading the menu. It was like studying for my chemistry exam. I had to make sure the dish I ordered was not just good but excellent. As we were chatting the whole time, we didn't feel *bitin* with our order. We spent a total of P540 plus 10 percent tip since the place didn't collect a service charge. Wow! I usually spent half of that amount just for myself.

We were left with enough money for a movie (ticket costs P150, gulp!) but we dropped the idea since we watched a film on DVD at my place earlier. Instead, we ordered P30 fruit shakes. Not only was it a cheap dessert, it was healthy, too.

We went around with our shakes, not noticing the time because we were having fun catching up and people-watching on a Saturday night.

In my opinion, the good thing about the new Greenbelt is the very relaxed atmosphere and the beautiful setup. It's a good place for hanging out. Although there aren't many shops, that's actually a good thing as it kept us from spending.

When it got late, and not feeling like spending anymore, we moved to The Fort.

I thought we would exceed our budget but we found we still had money left. The experience made me realize I could be a world-class *gastadora*. Though I had fun with the gimmick, the mall was definitely not the place to be for me when I was short of cash.

Other P1,000 *barkada* gimmicks:

- Movie night at home, P1,000 enough for a feast of delivered food
- Bar hopping or clubbing at P200-P500 entrance fee per person. Just hope you will find people to buy you drinks to save money.
- Gas money or bus ride to Tagaytay or Batangas. To save money, bring a picnic basket instead of buying food there.
- For hardcore video game freaks, lunch at the food court before going crazy at the arcade.
- Sing the night away in karaoke bars.

E-mail the author at tammydavid@mydestiny.net

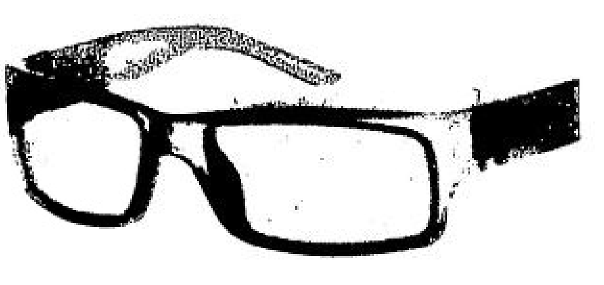
Subtly elegant eyewear

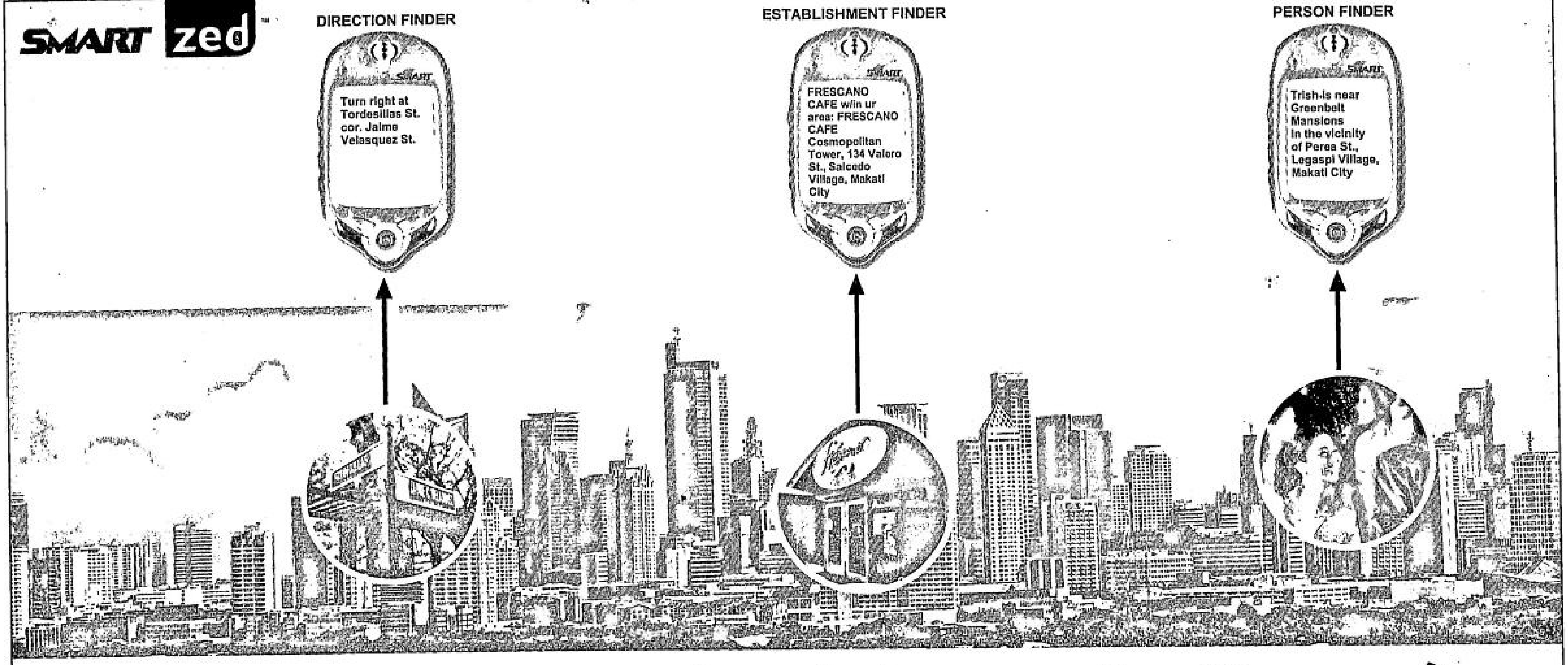
FRENCH fashion and luxury house Yves Saint Laurent's second collection of eyewear blends subtlety and elegance in pieces designed by Tom Ford.

The collection features clean lines, subtle colors, and discreet ornamentation. Subtle but very expressive new shapes characterize the eyewear for men. Some pieces mix metal and acetate. Frames have voluminous contours with metal detailing around the lenses.

YSL ophthalmic frames consist of full-rim, half-rim and rimless titanium that come in a variety of colors including black, silver, gray, blue, burgundy, brown and pink.

The glasses feature the YSL logo. Ford, who designed the collection, is the creative director and chief designer of the Gucci group. Yves Saint Laurent Eyewear is produced by Sanfilo Group, Pandova, Italy. Newtrends International Corporation is the local distributor.

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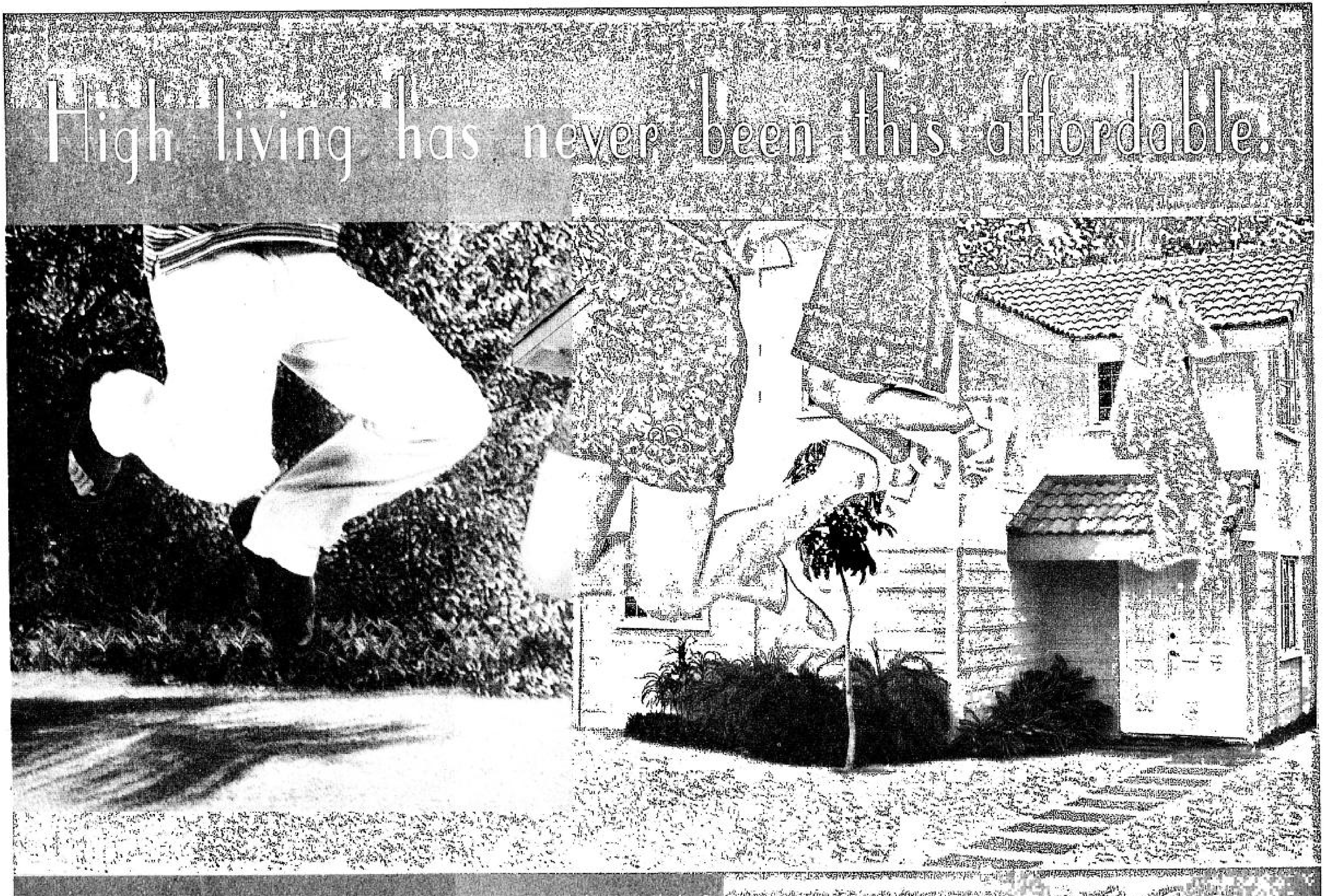
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Nokia 6610	-	-	-	2,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6610 (w/ camera & headset)	-	-	-	-	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 7210	-	-	-	5,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 7210 (w/ camera & headset)	-	-	-	-	3,000	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6100 (w/ camera & headset)	-	-	-	-	FREE	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson P800	-	-	-	-	-	-	FREE

addict	500	600	800	[illegible]	[illegible]	2665	[illegible]
Monthly Service Fee	P500	P600	P800	P1,335	P1,995	P2,665	P3,500

[illegible]

addict	500	600	800	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SMS Messaging	P1.00						
MMS Messaging	P5.00						
SMS Info On Demand	P2.50						
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Alabang Town Center	May 1- 18
Podium	May 1- 18
Festival Mall	May 1- 18
SM Megamall	May 1- 18
Greenbelt	May 1- 18
Smart Tower	May 1- 18
SM North EDSA	May 1- 18
Robinsons Galleria	May 6-18
Binondo	May 1- 18
SM Davao	May 1- 18
SM Cebu	May 1- 18
Mango Road Cebu	May 1- 18
Session Road Baguio	May 7-18
Boracay	May 10-18

MALL BLITZES	DATES
EDSA Shangri-la	May 1 - 18
Rockwell Powerplant	May 1 - 18
Alabang Town Center	May 1 - 18
Robinsons Malate	May 1 - 18
Podium	May 1 - 18
Festival Mall	May 5 - 18
Mile High Camp John Hay*	May 7 - 18

* OPEN ONLY FROM FRIDAY TO TUESDAY.

Note:
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2. Free Minute allocation will cover calls made from Addict Mobile to SMART, Addict Mobile to other GSM operators and Addict Mobile to non-NDD landline.
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Dating ideas for the cash-strapped

By Pam Pastor

IT started out as a dare.

When my friend Jon found out that the girl he asked out had once gone out on a P100 date, he tried beating that by setting a budget of P50. They bought ice cream cones, soda and a bag of chips and he took her to a small park with a beautiful garden. They sat on one of the benches and talked until 2 a.m.

It was one of his most memorable dates, he says. He ended up falling for her.

Contrary to what most people think, dates do not have to be expensive. Sure, it would be nice to have cash to throw around. But the bottomline is—it doesn't matter if sky's the limit—if you can't stand the person you're with, you're not going to have fun.

So, step one, make sure your date is someone you actually like. That shouldn't be too hard, eh?

When going out with a limited budget, you need imagination and a sense of humor. It would be nice if your date possessed the same qualities too.

> With a little imagination, dates can be fun but not expensive

P50

Stay at home. Who says you can't have fun at home? Rent a video [or better yet—borrow from friends], buy some chips and soda and you're all set. If you'd rather spend time talking, skip the video and buy even more chips.

Play boardgames. Monopoly, Clue, Scrabble, even Candyland Bingo. Take your pick. This would not only be fun, this would also help you see if your date is a sore loser.

Watch the videoke channel and sing to each other.

Street food. If your date is game, raid the street food stalls and pig out on fishballs, squid balls, barbecue, *isaw*, *kwek kwek*, sago and *buko* juice.

Buy a string and make friendship bracelets for each other.

Buy a lottery ticket and dream about what you'll do with the money.

Head for the LRT or MRT station and go for a joyride. Make sure not to go during peak hours as it will take the joy out of the ride.

Go to the mall and window-shop. You may be broke but you can always dream.

Take a walk. But because the weather has been so unbearably hot, it would be so much better to do this at night. Make sure that the place is safe, keep your wallets and mobile phones out of reach. Just enjoy the night breeze (if there is one) and the conversation.

Go to the zoo and gawk at the animals or the children's playground and go crazy on the monkey bars. It's fun to be silly sometimes.

P100

Find an inexpensive eatery

DATING/ F2

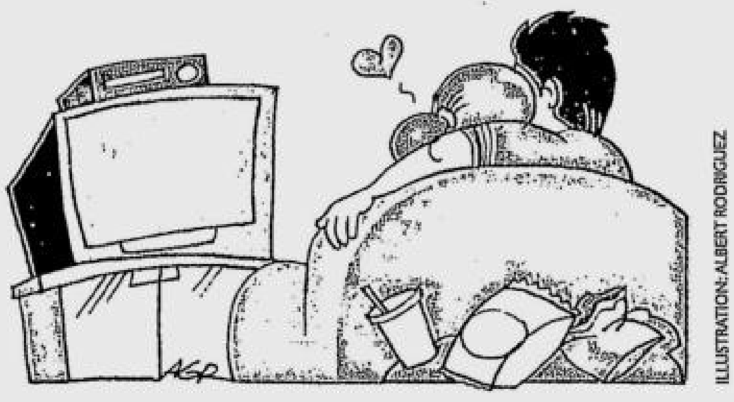
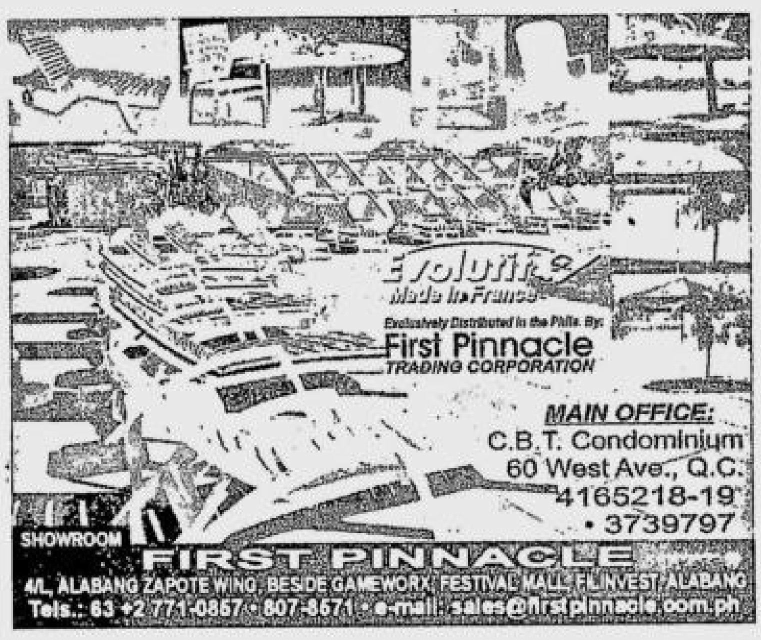


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ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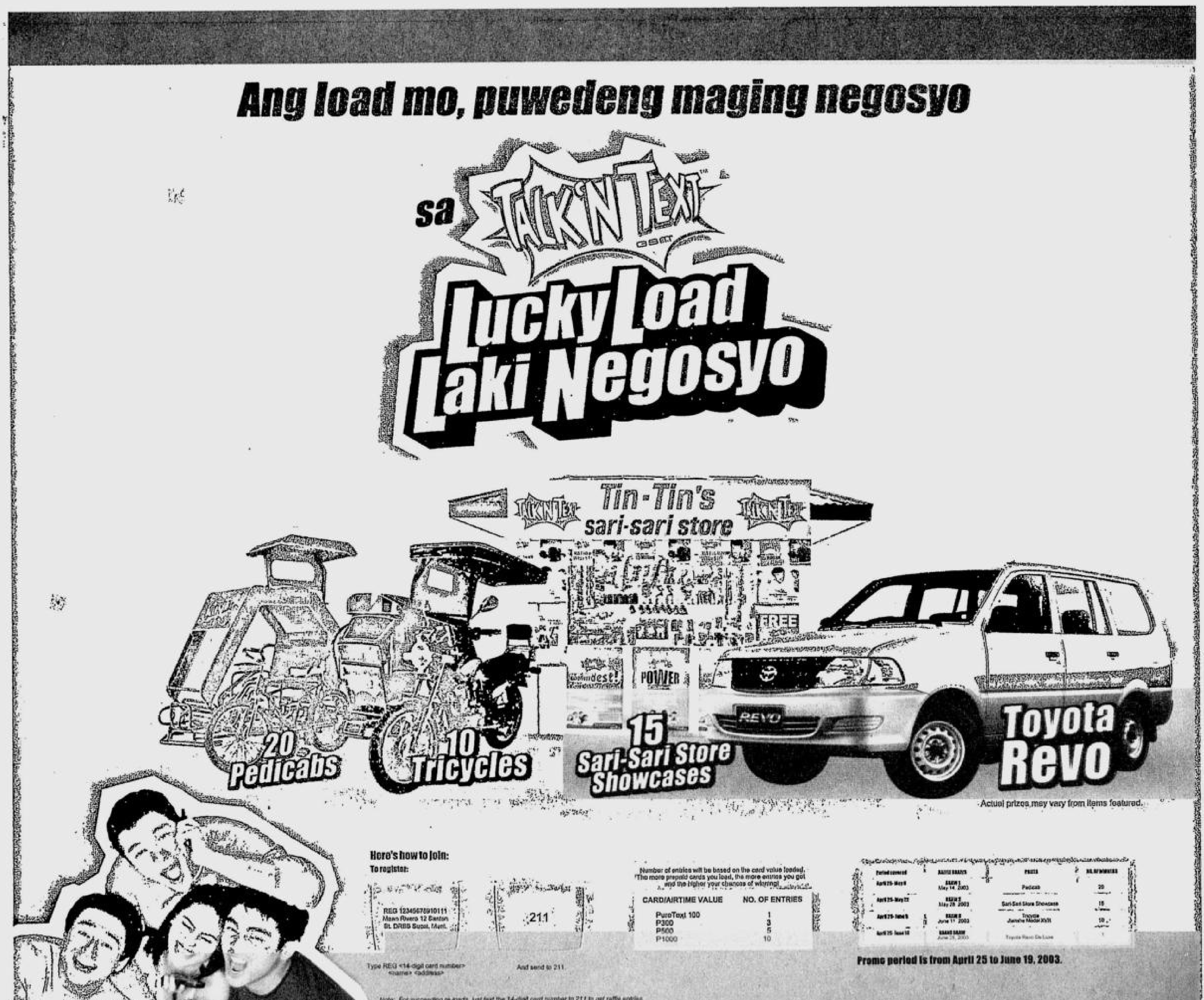
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Dating ideas for the cash-strapped

From page F1

—maybe your favorite university hangout—and enjoy the food and the company.

Stay home. Stock up on chips and sodas and play boardgames, watch videos or talk.

Hop on a bus and let it take you wherever. There's nothing wrong with having a small adventure with someone you care for. Just make sure you'd have enough money for the ride back.

Buy two slices of pizza and sodas. Again, conversation is key.

Buy fries and sundaes from your favorite fast food. Then at home, whip up a variety of dips for the fries from what you already have in your fridge. You may even turn it into a contest if you want.

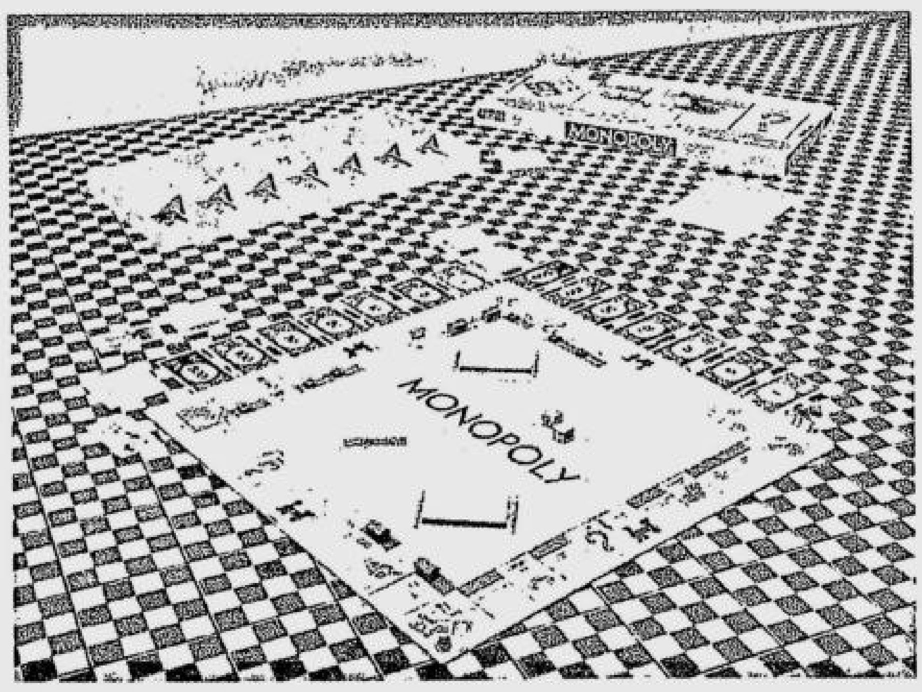
Go for a drive. Ask your favorite filling station to load P100 into your gas tank and go for a long drive. This is better done at night, when the streets are free of traffic. Then choose a nice spot, get out, watch the stars, talk and enjoy the sandwiches and drinks you brought from home.

P300

Watch a movie. You might want to skip the THX this time, though, as that will wipe out your entire budget.

Eat at a fast food place. Or if the heat outside is too much to bear, call for delivery.

Hit the arcades and try to win a prize for your date.



Drive to Tagaytay on a whim. Stop by a convenience store and buy snacks and drinks.

P500

Have dinner. Yeah, like we need to explain that.

Have a sundae party for two. Buy ice cream (half a gallon of vanilla will do) and a variety of toppings (nuts, cereals that come in little boxes, marshmallows, local chocolate which you can grate, chocolate syrup) from the supermarket. Take everything home and try to come up with the best ice cream creations. You can share them with the rest of your loved one's family for brownie points.

Go wall-climbing. That's a challenge a lot of people will enjoy.

Watch a movie in the nice cinemas and buy snacks that will tide you over.

P1,000

Have dinner. You can splurge a little and skip the fast food. Go to a nice restaurant. It would be nice if you could go there ahead of time and leave either a small stuffed animal, flowers or even a letter with the waiter. Instruct him to bring it out with the dessert to surprise your date.

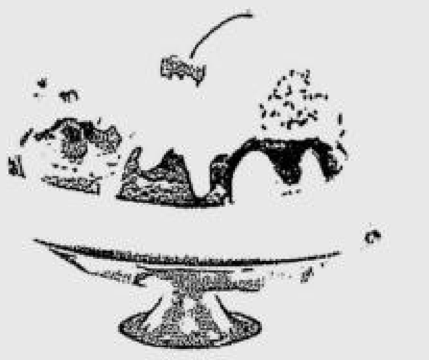
Karaoke. Go to a karaoke bar and sing to your heart's content. If you're a little shy, get one of those private rooms. You might even have a little leftover for snacks.

Watch a movie—and yes, this time you may go for the better cinemas. You can still have dinner after and enough for a few games at the arcade.

Take a bus to the beach. Bring food from your fridge or stop by a convenience store. Don't forget your sunblock.

When it comes to dates, your budget will not dictate the limits. Only your imagination can.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph



In dire straits and going solo

By Margot Aissa C. Tan
2bU! Correspondent

CAN one go out alone with just P50 in one's wallet? A friend swore he wouldn't dare go out of the house with just Elpidio Quirino in his pocket.

But let's get a little creative and see what we can do to stretch that peso to the farthest distance that it can possibly go.

P50

Going solo in Starbucks. You can order a Honey-glazed Donut, a Cinnamon Raisin or Onion-Herb bagel (that comes with free butter and jam), or any of the three *pan de sals* available —chicken, corned beef, or tuna.

For drinks, go for the free water in the counters. If you have the gall, you can even fill your cup with milk.

A single order can buy you enough time to let loose and hang out under one of those big green umbrellas or inside the air-conditioned and jazzed-up shop.

Going solo in Dunkin Donuts. The ambience isn't as classy, but you've got to admit that they've got the best-tasting donuts in the country. If you avail of their promo, you can get a cup of coffee and two donuts for only P25.

You can also try the mocha or sweet corn freeze as an alternative to the pricey Frapuccino in designer coffee shops.

You can read the papers there, write your journal, listen to your Walkman, plan things, stay quiet and watch the people around you.

Going solo in Shell Select and Petron Treats. Those 24-hour shops in gasoline stations have become popular *tambayans,* especially for car and racing enthusiasts.

You can always go in and buy *chichiria* or a drink and step outside and ponder over things. Enlightenment and bright ideas come from the most strange and unthinkable of places.

P100

Going solo in Café Breton. If you're an art junkie, why not drop by this fabulous crepe restaurant. They will hold an exhibit titled "Impresionistas @ Café Breton," featuring paintings by Popo San Pascual, Pardo de Leon, Jet Melencio and Corrine Ching. Admission is free. You can catch the exhibit in their Podium branch until June 8.

Even if you're not a fan of art, you can still hang out in this resto.

With P100, you can order the yummy Butter and Sugar crepe, which costs only P52, or perhaps find something to quench your thirst instead.

Going solo in night markets. If you're a shopper, you can go to Greenhills Shopping Center that has over 1,000 stalls. Shopping hours are from 6 p.m.-2 a.m. until May 31.

You can also go to Eastwood City in Libis. But the stalls there are fewer and product selections are not as diverse and plenty. A P100 can buy you a trendy bag, two pairs of what I call "happy socks" (the printed, colored and patterned ones sold in *tiangges*), something to chew on and to drink with, or fans, hair accessories and other useless trinkets that you really don't need but want to have.

Going solo on ladies' night. A lot of clubs and bars give free entrance for women on selected days of the week. If you're a girl, you can get in for free, just order the cheapest drink on the bar list and enjoy the pumping music and the roaring crowd.

Going solo in the food court or in the movies. Many people have this aversion to eating alone or watching a movie alone. But it's a good confidence-boosting exercise. You can go to the food court in malls and scout for a good meal and a good bargain. It's affordable and more important, it can feed you well. If you're not really hungry, you can buy a small bag of chips or other snacks and have enough money left to watch a movie.

P300

Going solo in the parlor. Many women have their hair cut during crucial moments of their lives. With P300, you can get a haircut, manicure or pedicure in a cheap salon.

Going solo in theater. You can watch a play titled "The Woman in Black" at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium at the RCBC Plaza in Makati. The play is about Arthur Kipps, a troubled man with a story that he desperately wants to tell. He hires an actor to help him prepare the audience: his family. Then, the actor turns his manuscript into a chilling theatrical device. Tickets cost P250, P200 and P150.

Going solo at Häagen-Dazs or at The Manila Peninsula. If you're willing to splurge on good ice cream, you can go to either of these two places. If you want a casual yet elegant setting, go for Häagen-Dazs and check out its gourmet ice cream. If you want a more formal place, hang out at the Manila Pen's lobby and have a taste of the ice cream and enjoy the sound of strings playing.

ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Going at it alone does not mean the boredom of loneliness, but the thrill of discovery

P500

Going solo in Hard Rock Café. On regular days, the entrance fee costs P300, which comes with standard drinks: soda, iced tea or local beer. On Wednesdays, they feature The Company, and on Tuesdays, they feature Pido with Take One. But admission fee may vary, depending on the show.

Going solo in National Sports Grill. If you enjoy American, grill, international or Mexican cuisine, and love watching games from the NBA to the UAAP on wide-screen television, this is definitely the place for you. It's located on the third floor of Greenbelt 1 with billiard tables for the dreaming Efren Bata's and ordinary-sized television screens strategically placed all over the area to make you gaga over the game.

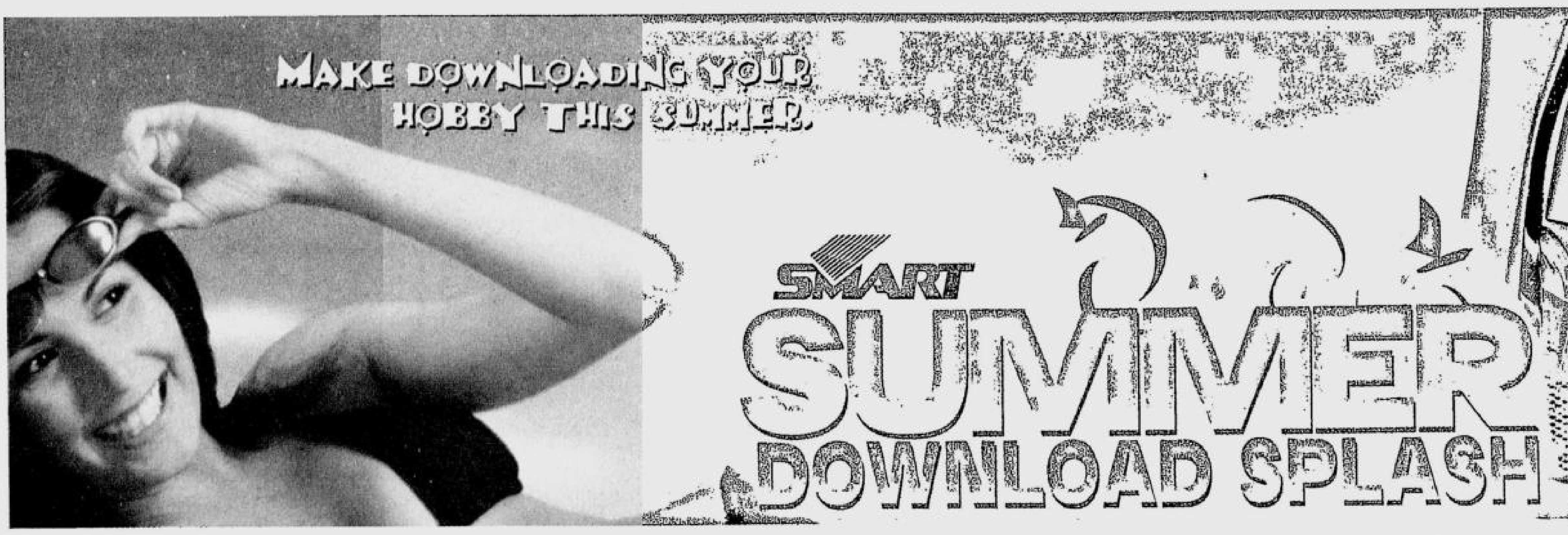
Going solo in Festival. At night, you can play cosmic bowling that's revved up with disco music. The pins and the balls glow in the dark, which add to the mystique and excitement of the place's ambience.

P1,000

Going solo in the spa. There's nothing like a good facial or a good back massage to de-stress and reinvigorate yourself. There are a lot of small to medium-scale spas so you shouldn't have any trouble finding one. If you're enrolled in a gym, you can also avail of the massage services.

Going solo at Onstage. Onstage Greenbelt is holding a concert series featuring Side A. You can get tickets at Onstage, Ticketworld and National Bookstore. The concert is on May 16, 17, 30 and 31 at 9 p.m.

Going solo in the mall. Shopaholics unite! There's absolutely nothing more exciting than buying trendy clothes or a new pair of shoes.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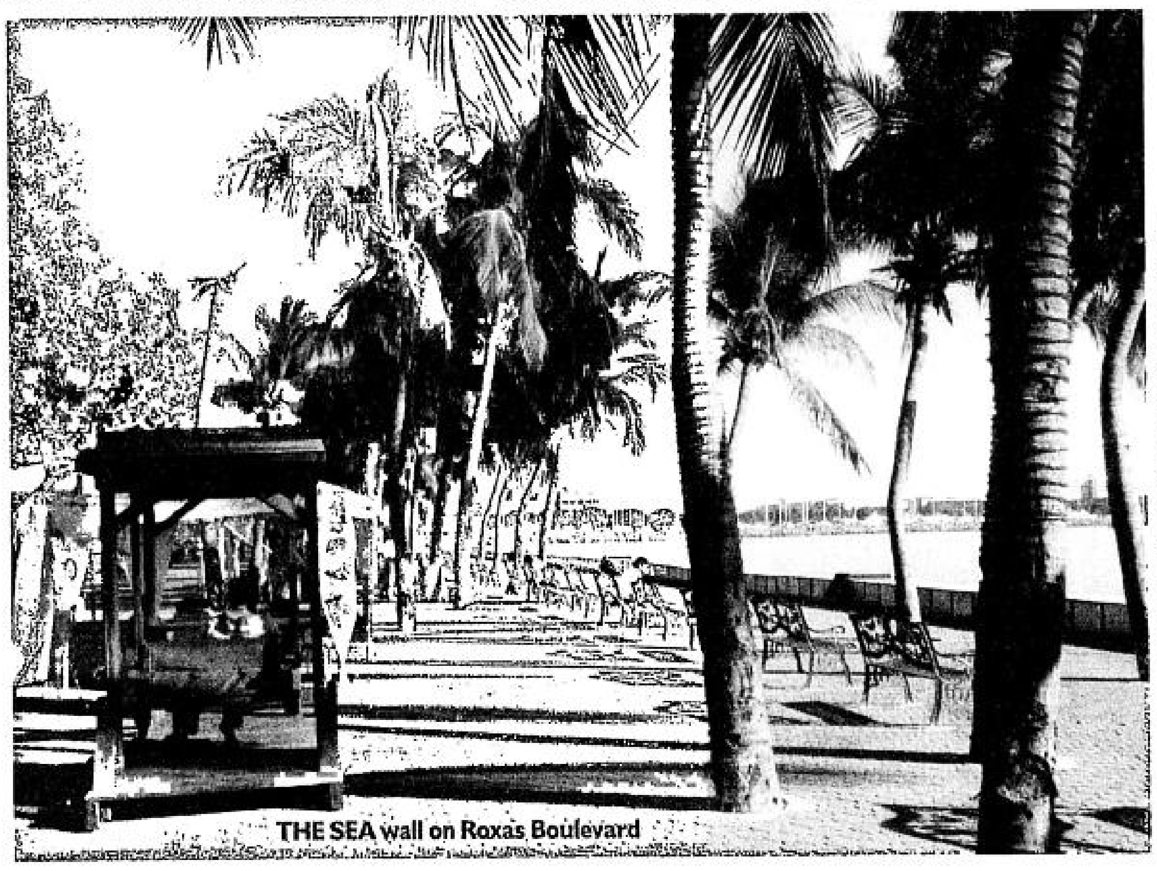

THE SEA wall on Roxas Boulevard

AN AFTERNOON in picturesque Fort Santiago

PHOTOS BY MELISSA TELAN

Fun family gimmicks on a tight budget

By Angela Ignacio, Melissa Telan and Sam Refran
2bU! Correspondents

TIMES are tough and trips in or out of the country can make a hole in your pocket. But that doesn't mean you can't have loads of fun with your family. You'd be surprised at the gimmicks you can enjoy with just a few pesos in your wallet.

And you don't have to settle for the usual trips to the mall or meals in fancy restaurants.

2bU! braved the Manila traffic (among other things) and scoured the city for exciting alternative family gimmicks to suit a variety of budgets, from the extremely tight to the relatively comfortable.

P50

Manila has parks and mini-zoos and they're not as *baduy* as you think. Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife charges only an entrance fee of P8 for adults and P5 for kids. If you're a student, you also pay P5 if you present your school ID.

The park is quite big and clean, with nice picnic areas and lots of shade. Adults and kids alike will enjoy the mini-zoo where some of the most beautiful indigenous species of birds and other exotic animals are kept.

You can also spend a quiet afternoon at the seawall on Roxas Boulevard. Without paying an entrance fee, you can sit on one of the benches or wooden swings. Bring your own sandwiches and drinks and watch the sunset together or have some popsicle or "dirty ice cream" to cool off.

You may want to bring a fishing rod. The last time we checked, fishing was allowed. You don't have to be concerned about safety, as Manila policemen are always patrolling the area.

P100

Who says campuses are only places for learning? Spend a fun-filled recreational day at the University of the Philippines Diliman, whose campus is well known for its cleanliness and beautiful scenery. You won't pay anything for entrance, and parking is free as well.

Go on a family morning jog around the campus, for starters. Bring along a ball, badminton set, bikes, skateboards, even your dog. Also bring jugs of ice-cold drink.

When you've finished jogging, go have a *tusok* fest at the fish-ball stands found all over the campus. Fish balls usually go for P5 per stick of 10 pieces. You can also get squid balls, *kwek-kwek*, squid rolls, shrimp balls and *kikiam*, all of which sell for P10 a stick.

If you're quite thirsty, you can get a glass of cold *gulaman* for P4 at the Co-op squid balls stand near the Shopping Center. If you want something more filling, buy foot-long hotdog sandwiches for P25 each. Most fish-ball stands also sell these.

P300

It may sound unbelievable but a family of four can have a hearty, satisfying meal for less than 100 each. Within the Balara Filters complex, you can "eat all you *kanin*" at Mang Jimmy's. It is where students, who want to get the most out of their money, go. Order three viands and you get another one for free. Most viands cost about P80 to P90, with only a few selling for P100. The servings are huge. You also can get all the rice you want, which should please the men in your family. Don't forget to meet Mang Jimmy himself.

Of course, a family day wouldn't be complete without a visit to the mall (well, for some families at least). But malling need not be so expensive. You don't have to buy anything or limit yourself to watching a movie. If you like singing and don't mind performing in public, try the videoke machines at the basement of Megamall.

Book lovers can can spend hours at Booksale searching through piles of used books for prize paperbacks and hardbounds. If you are still at the mall near closing time, you can take advantage of closing-hour food discounts. Some stores, such as Bodhi and the French Baker, offer their products at 50-percent less before closing.

P500

Since SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndome) has made travel to China, including Hong Kong, out at the moment, why not visit Chinatown instead? The family can brave the traffic and check out the exotic things Binondo has to offer.

Roam the streets of Chinatown and marvel at the unique culture there and at the things you can buy. The narrow streets are crammed with stores and vendors selling practically everything, from P60 T-shirts to the best *siomai* you've ever tasted, to exotic herbs and medicines like snake blood and dried seahorse.

Visit the Binondo Church in Plaza del Basco to see a classic example of colonial era architecture. It is where the first Filipino saint, San Lorenzo Ruiz, served as an altar boy, which explains why the church also serves as his shrine.

When your feet start to ache and your stomachs demand to be filled , go to Estero, a side street off Ongpin, with its rows of eateries along a creek. You can stuff yourselves silly with inexpensive yet excellent Chinese food from a wide array of restaurants and stalls.

P1,000

If you are still unaware of government efforts to restore the glory of the old city of Manila, we recommend you visit Intramuros and take a trip down memory lane. The brick roads and elegant Spanish-style houses inside the walls are straight out of the pages of history books.

We recommend you spend one whole day because there is just so much to see. Take care where you park, though, because your car can get towed. We learned that the hard way.

For starters, you can take a *calesa* ride for P250 to see what changes have been made. One can almost imagine what life was like in the 19th century, with friars in brown robes and elegantly dressed men and women strolling down the cobblestone walkways. History buffs may want to check out the Archdiocesan Museum of Manila and the Kaisa Heritage Center to learn about the beginnings of the Catholic Church and the Chinese-Filipino community, respectively.

Stop by Casa Manila in the Plaza San Luis Complex to look at antique furniture used by families of European and Chinese descent. If you want to see an example of how the rich lived during the colonial period, this is the place to visit.

For historical churches, check out the San Agustin Church, which dates back to 1571, making it the oldest stone church in Metro Manila. There is the Manila Cathedral, the seat of the Catholic Archdiocese of Manila, in Plaza Roma. It's a well-known fact that many starry-eyed young women dream of getting married in this magnificent church.

A trip to Intramuros would not be complete without a tour of Fort Santiago, where the national hero, Jose Rizal, was imprisoned. Quaint shops and cafés where you can take a breather and have some *merienda* line the walkway to the entrance. Admission fee is P40 for adults and P15 for children and students.

Some people have found Intramuros even more breathtaking at night, but unfortunately these intrepid correspondents weren't able to stay that long. All around the Walled City, there are many reasonably priced restaurants that offer filling dinners that are easy on the wallet. After you've seen everything but still don't feel going home yet, there's a trusty Starbucks to hang out in, of course.

Having fun with your loved ones doesn't have to be costly if you know where to look

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Sizzling fashion

COOLING off in a hammock. Petit Monde's halter-printed knit blouse tandems well with short shorts in soft denim

SUNSHINE Cruz, Anne Curtis, Cheska Garcia and Jodi Santamaria recently graced Bohol Beach Club in the latest Petit Monde fashion with photographer Jun de Leon.

Sun-drenched pastels in flowing fabrics are hot. These nature-inspired numbers conjure images of idyllic islands and the sultry summer breeze. Worn with summer accessories, the models simply enjoyed their days in scenic Bohol.

ON ANNE: pink georgette blouse with frilly details; on Sunshine: printed chiffon blouse and skirt with asymmetric hem; on Cheska: slip-on light blue camisole under a cowl-necked halter number. All by Petit Monde.

BEACH BABES. Printed chiffon spaghetti-strapped dress with little ruffles as accent on Jodi; earth-tone chiffon number accentuated with lace on asymmetric hem on Cheska. All by Petit Monde.

WATER BEARER. Jodi playfully scoops up Bohol's pristine waters in Petit Monde's denim mini skirts and floral pink cotton top.

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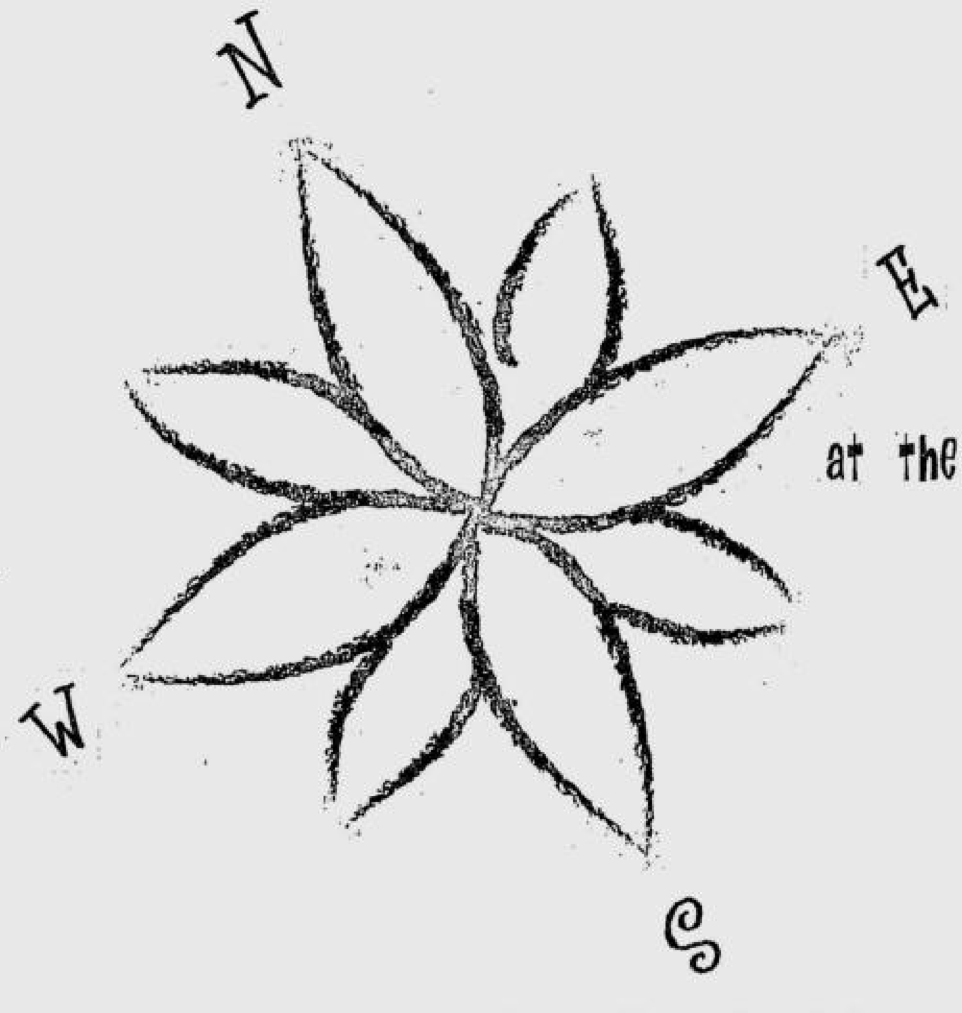

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People may think of them as just another 'coño' band, but for the guys of Sponge Cola, nothing matters except the music

Almost-Nearly-Famous

Text and photos by Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

IT'S hard being in a band. While the stories of chicks and groupies and freebies aren't exactly a myth, some bands have yet to experience the full-blown "Rolling Stone"-esque, sugary sweet rock-star life. First off, they have to get past the criticisms of listeners and peers.

"We played [at this bar]... it was a [tribute] concert, and I had a hard time recalling the lyrics, and people laughed at us when we played," Yael Yuzon, 18, laments.

Don't be quick to label the four-piece pop-rock band Sponge Cola as just another one of those bratty college bands made up of attention-starved guys out to get some extra cash in addition to their weekly allowances. The incoming college sophomore friends, Chris Cantada (drums), Gosh Dilay (bass), Yael (vocals and guitar), and Armo (gui-

ALMOST/ G4

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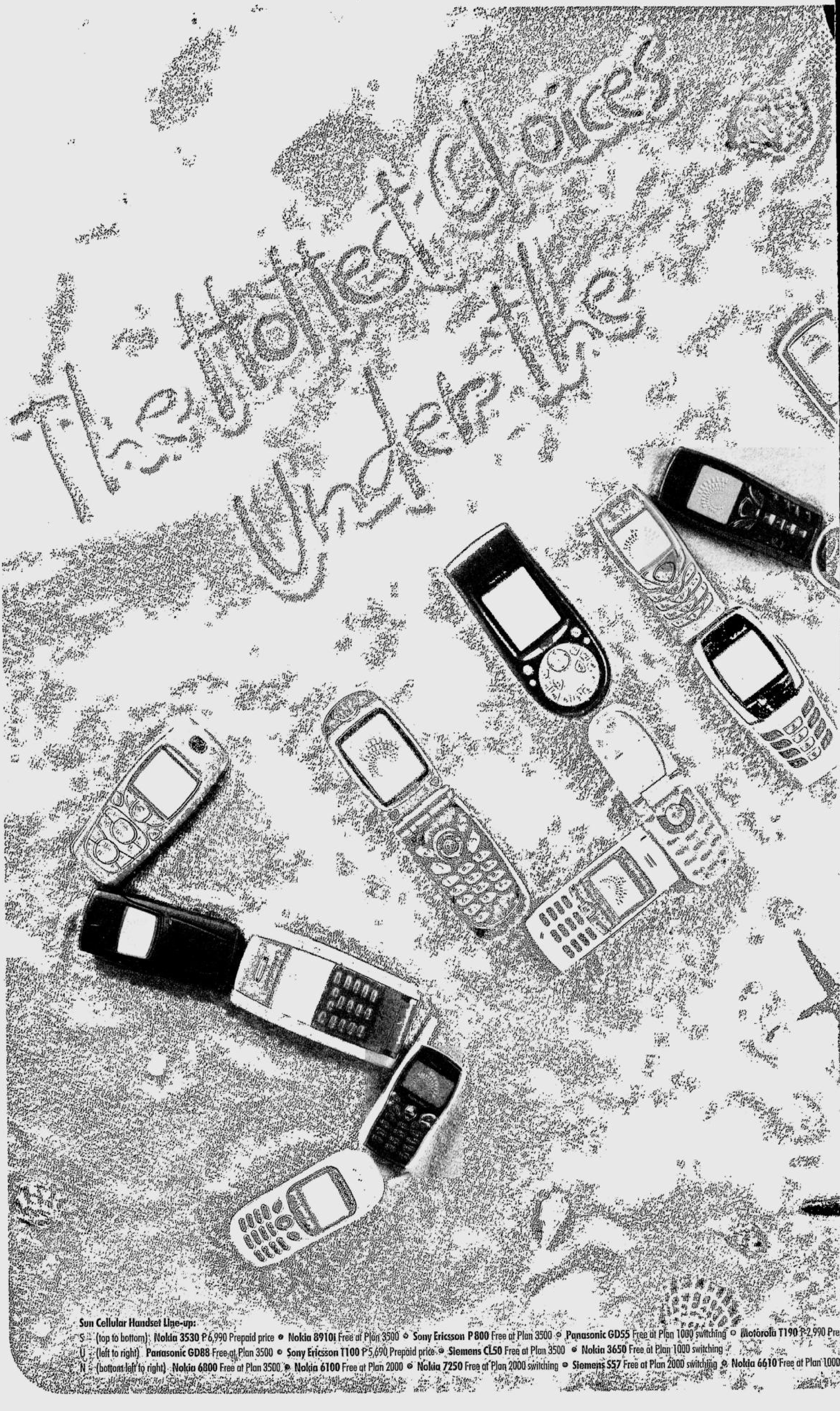

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Almost-Nearly-Famous

From page G1

tars), have been at it since high school, and are quite relieved to have graduated to college.

"When you're in high school, no matter how good you are, the college kids always look down on you," Chris points out. "When you're in college, the high school kids go, 'wow, *kuya*!'"

Rock n' roll high school

It was in high school where Yael, Gosh and two other friends got together through the Teatro Baguntao in Ateneo to form a band for fun. After winning at their school and at Holy Spirit's Battle of the Bands, they decided to keep playing. Unfortunately, line-up changes had to be made. It was in the summer of 2002 that the definitive Sponge Cola was born.

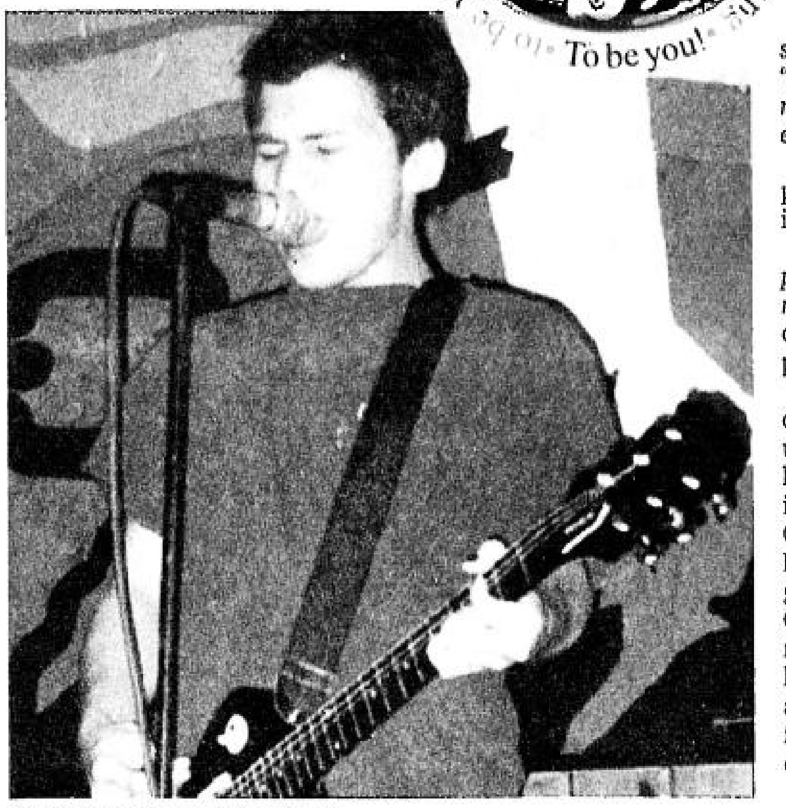
Asked if his parents approve of the band's tedious gig schedule, Yael says he was already a free spirit by the age of 14. Armo, who also plays for Ramp Queen, confesses that his parents don't even know that he's in a band, and Chris is allowed to go to gigs as long as the driver is with him.

Such a set-up can often mislead observers to think that the band is really nothing more than a bunch of rich spoiled brats. It doesn't help that all four come from a school known as a breeding ground of college rock bands.

"Yeah, we all came from Ateneo," says Chris. "But we hope we don't get labeled as [just another Ateneo band]." Yael nods, then jumps into a story about how their gig the day before went.

"We had [an out-of-town] gig, and word got out we were from Ateneo. Before we even got onstage, they were going, '*ay, coño*', and that sucked." And how about the fact that the members could easily grace the cover of a magazine with their looks, reminiscent of yet another Ateneo band that's been gracing almost every school fair?

"It doesn't really matter," Armo says. "If they want to see us as a bubblegum pop boy band, fine, it's okay with me."



YAEL Yuzon belts his heart out.

"As long as people appreciate what we do," says Gosh. "And at the same time," adds Yael, "*gusto din namin yung ginagawa namin. Kasi may ibang* bands *na tumutugtog lang dahil in-eexpect na sa kanila na maglabas ng ganon.*"

While initially playing rock, the band hopes people wouldn't label them under one specific genre.

"*Sana ma-*transcend *yung* labels *ng* genres, *para mas* open minded *yung mga tao sa* music *na ginagawa namin*. So it'll be like, we make our own music, and it's up to them to interpret it," explains Yael.

Although the band believes it can cross over genres, their influences while growing up are of the same, well, genre. Armo says his dad blasted Beatles records while growing up, and has now taken to modern rock. Chris insists he got into music after seeing a Beatles video while he was still in fifth grade, and Gosh claims to have been an OPM fanatic since he "discovered" Top 40 radio in fourth grade. Yael, on the other hand, went through a Guns 'n Roses phase, and basically gets most of his influences from Chris. "Because he has a burner," he quips.

And how do they describe their music?

"Testosterone pop-rock," Armo says. Yael frowns. "Why did you say that?!"

Crazy For You

Another label Sponge Cola is trying to get off its back is the "Crazy For You" band, referring to the cover song it played during its first few gigs. The band was ultimately associated with the Madonna song, so much so that some prepubescent girls actually thought it was an original.

"*Trip trip lang yon eh*," Yael says, groaning. "We had a gig at Ateneo last September, and we thought it would be funny to play it. We didn't know the chords, *pero* okay *lang*! *Tapos* eventually, *parang nangyari, na-*label *kami* as the 'Crazy for You' band, which we try to avoid now."

They actually suck at playing covers, he points out, citing the tribute gig they did a few weeks back. "Which is why we only play originals now," says Chris.

Good thing their original compositions can very well save them. With topics like the usual heartache and unrequited love, Sponge Cola hardly needs covers to make people sit up and listen.

Yael and Gosh write most of the songs, and insist that the entire band helps out in putting everything together. As usual, inspiration can come in the unlikeliest of forms and places. "I can be talking to a friend on the phone," Yael says, "*tapos sobrang* bad trip *yung kinukwento niya, tapos parang, 'uy, ang ganda nun ha*!'"

Gosh, however, has a different approach to songwriting. "*Inuuna ko muna yung* chords, and *yung* melody. *Tapos nilalaro ko lang yung mga* words. *Kung maganda kalabasan, eh di* okay. *Tapos bahala na mga tao mag-*interpret *kung anong gusto nilang makita sa* song *na yon*."

Will they ever play the Madonna hit again? "Maybe. When we have buddies in the crowd who want to hear it," says Yael.

Ready for the big time

Some live recordings of the band have leaked to the Internet and can be downloaded on Kazaa. However, listeners can soon delete those Sponge Cola bootlegs and get a crisp, clear copy of songs like "Jeepney." A six-song recording is in the works and will be out by June or July.

"We recorded it already but the drum sound sucked. So now we're doing it all over again and we've decided to get professional help," says Chris. The new drum tracks will be recorded at Louie Talan's studio.

Do they plan to sign up with any major record label? The band has mixed reactions. Yael settles for a "we'll take things as they come" answer. Chris says their only focus right now is to get the demo disc get done. "It's way overdue," he sighs.

So for now, fans will have to content themselves with gigs and fairs. Asked what their best and worst gigs have been, the four express differing opinions on what makes a good or bad gig. Almost every gig is bad, Gosh quips, and Yael mentions quite a few. But two performances stand out for all of them: their UP gig and the Poveda junior prom.

"[The UP gig] was one gig where we didn't care about the audience reaction, just as long as we played well," says Yael. Armo, for his part, recalls the Poveda prom gig with a smile. "We played a 'senti' set, and people actually danced. You can see the connection between the audience and the band."

"Oh my God, *nakakakilig yon!*" Yael adds. "*Tapos pag tumugtog kami ng* fast song, *nakikita mo tumatalon yung mga tao. So kahit mabilis o mabagal,* okay *pa rin sa kanila!*"

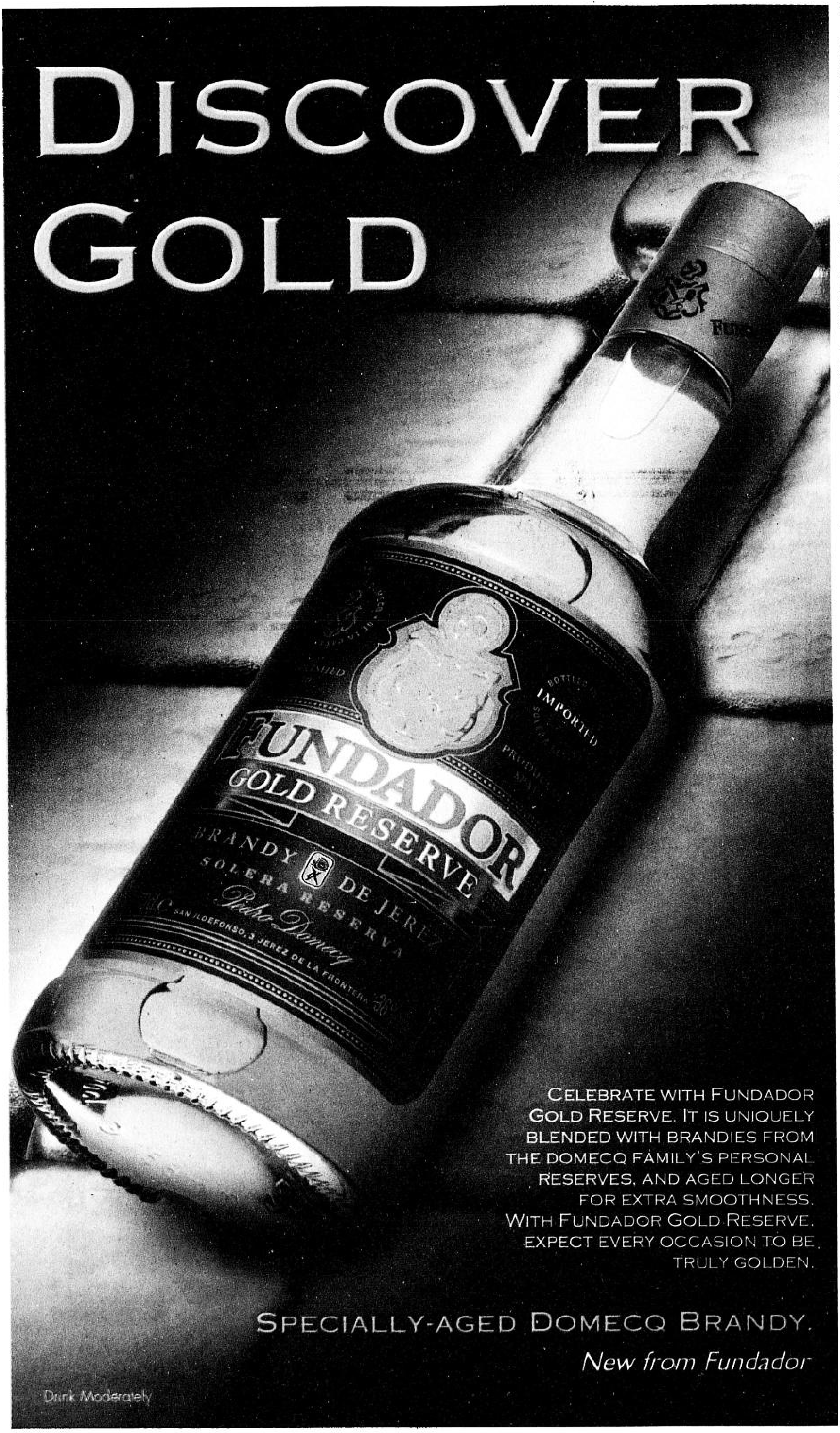
It's obvious that this band won't exactly find it difficult to get the recognition of chicks and groupies. Their peers in the musical arena are also taking notice. Even now, many fellow musicians decades their senior seem amazed that the band members are in fact just out of high school.

But while some people think of the age factor as a double-edged sword, Sponge Cola looks at it as a win-win situation.

"If we sound terrible, people will think, 'oh, it's okay, they're kids'" says Armo. "And if we sound good, people will go, 'wow, *ang galing ha*!'"

That's one quote they ought to keep in mind when they finally do their Rolling Stone interview.

To book Sponge Cola for a band, contact Ray Fab at 0917-8119468, or check out their website, spongecola.vze.com, or their mailing list, groups.yahoo.com/group/sponge_cola. Head on over to Kafe, Katipunan. on May 15, 16, 28 and 29 to catch them live.



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2bU! digs out the details of this Hugh Grant look-alike's life, loves and apparent obsession with hats and roosters

By Angela V. Ignacio and Melissa Telan
2bU! Correspondents

"A GLOBAL vomiting of wisdom, purity and enlightenment."

That's how Jason Mraz describes his music in his comical online interview with himself, and he couldn't have said it better.

In his radio and press interviews, the 25-year-old singer/songwriter from Mechanicsville, Virginia, gamely answers random questions in his soft, faintly Southern accent. He sounds so down-to-earth, much like your average regular guy, that you feel like you can ask him anything. Well, almost anything.

Not many people know that the name Mraz is Czechoslovakian in origin, meaning "frost." And contrary to popular belief, the name actually has two syllables. "It's ma-RAZ," he clarifies with a bit of a twang.

When asked to describe himself in three words, Jason thinks for a moment and says, "I'd have to say chocolate vanilla strawberry… [because] they're my favorite ice cream flavors and you get a little bit of everything."

Those who have listened to his album or seen him perform live would agree. His musical influences are an eclectic mix of artists, from Sade to Beck to Björk. Jason infuses his songs with a vivid imagination and a distinctive style that critics can't seem to put a finger on, but nevertheless often leave them clamoring for more.

From playing in coffee shops to sold-out US tours, Jason's obviously got something going for him. The secret? His shrewd, off-the-wall sense of humor coupled with his charismatic flair for intimate interaction with his audiences. Such charisma makes his listeners feel as if they're actually involved in the show, no matter how large the crowd is.

"It's good to have laughter… You don't have to be boring to play the guitar," he says. "I found out it was more fun to keep the audience engaged." And that he successfully does.

Sensitive and cocky

Of course, it's unavoidable that he is being compared to a lot of acoustic acts, especially John Mayer. Jason says, "Mayer and I, we've shared a beer [but] we've never actually shared a stage." We'd love to see that soon, though.

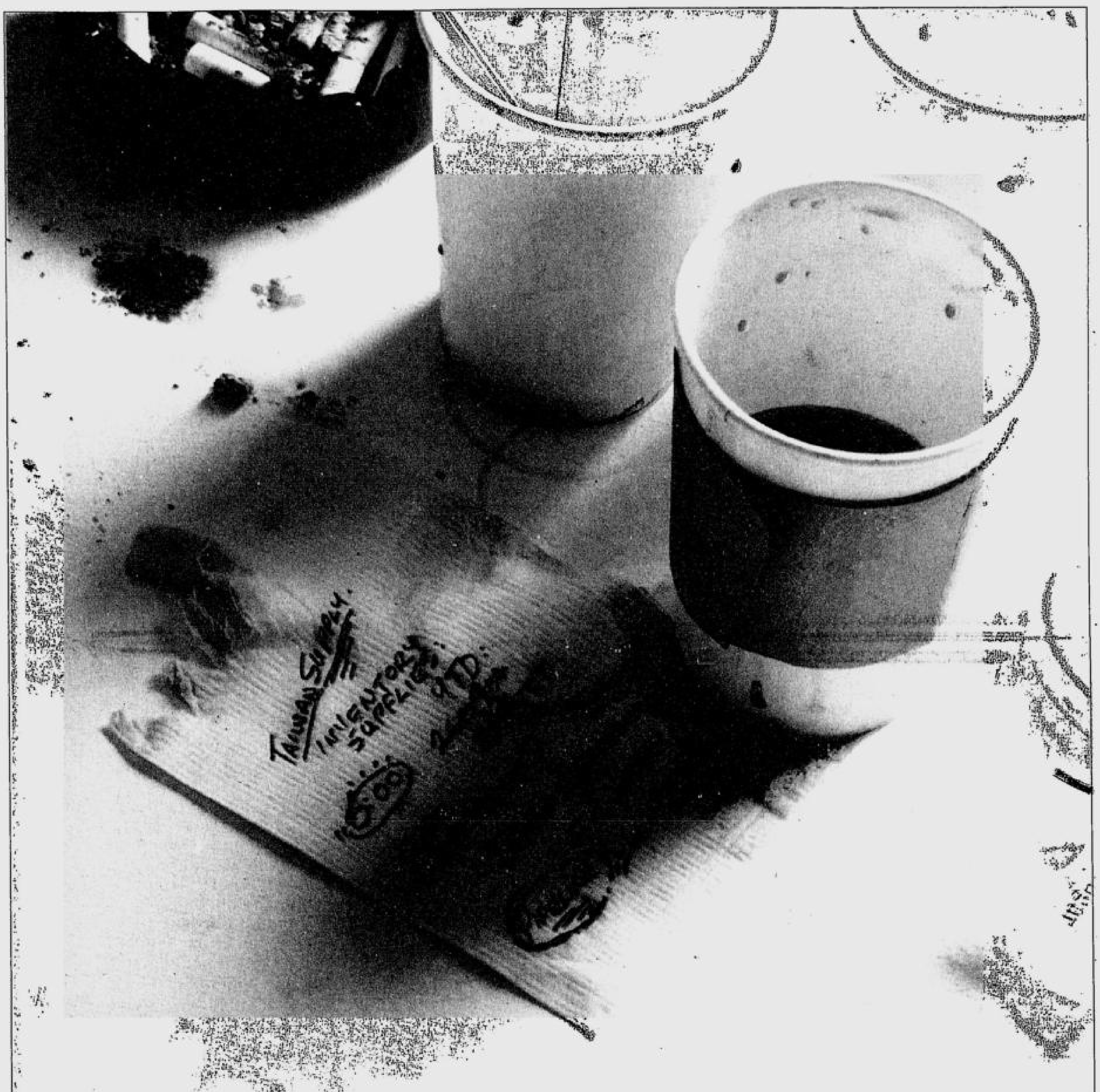
What is it, then, that actually sets his music apart from all the others? Jason says that he tries to "write like a woman"—but don't get any ideas now. "Well, since there are a lot of us out there, I try to write like a woman so there's a sensitive approach to [my music]," he explains.

Fans as well as observant people would notice that two things seem to be permanent fix-

JASON/ H3

"I TRY to write like a woman."

Meet & Greet
MAYE TONGCO
Kikay
SM Manila, 11:30 am
SM City Sta Mesa, 1:30 pm
SM Cinema Tutuban, 2:30 pm
SM Fairview, 4:30 pm
SM City North Edsa, 5:30 pm
SM Megamall, 7:30 pm
May 14 at the Cinema Lobby
SM CINEMA
Schedule subject to change without prior notice



Sunday afternoon. Hangin' out with the guys.

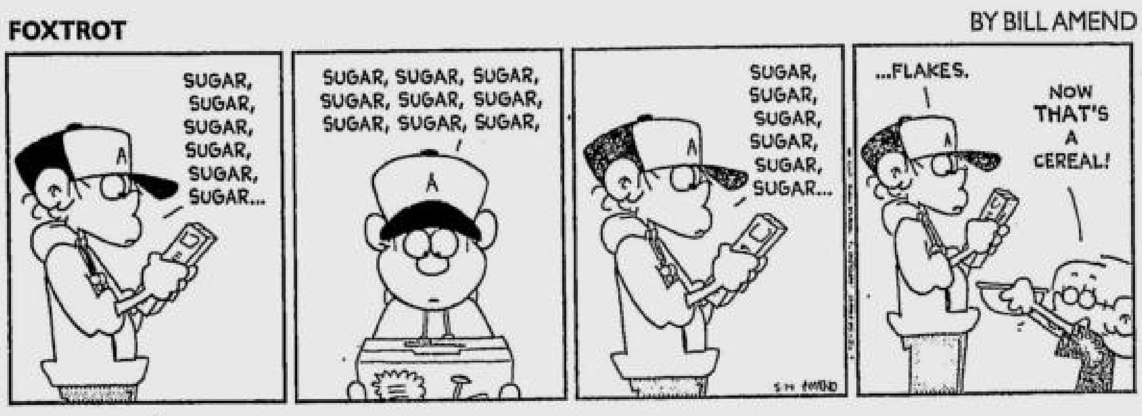
Perfect. Until a text hits from the boss.

He wants to know product inventory and pipeline status by 6:00 sharp.

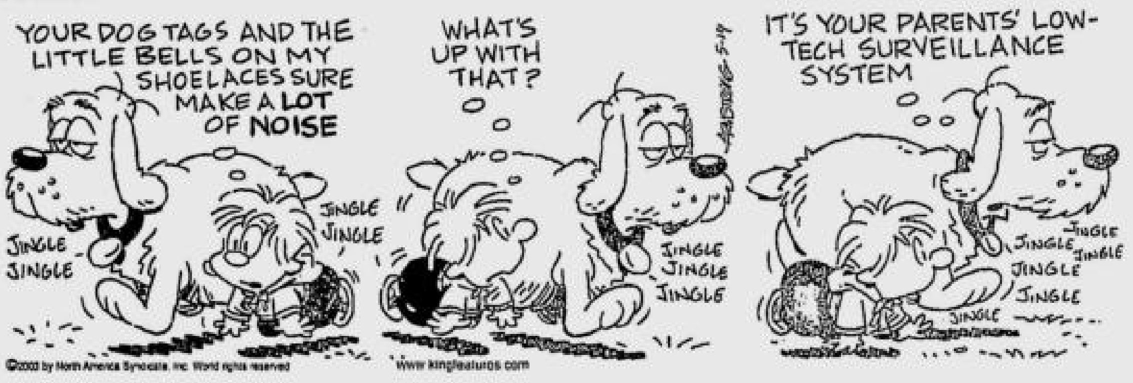
Is this how you intend to spend your idle time?

(And you only have a couple of hours to check the online inventory system and save your career.)

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


SUGAR, SUGAR, SUGAR, SUGAR, SUGAR, SUGAR...
SUGAR, SUGAR, SUGAR, SUGAR, SUGAR, SUGAR, SUGAR, SUGAR, SUGAR,
SUGAR, SUGAR, SUGAR, SUGAR, SUGAR, SUGAR...
...FLAKES.
NOW THAT'S A CEREAL!

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


YOUR DOG TAGS AND THE LITTLE BELLS ON MY SHOELACES SURE MAKE A LOT OF NOISE
JINGLE JINGLE
JINGLE JINGLE
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
JINGLE JINGLE JINGLE
IT'S YOUR PARENTS' LOW-TECH SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM
JINGLE JINGLE JINGLE JINGLE JINGLE JINGLE

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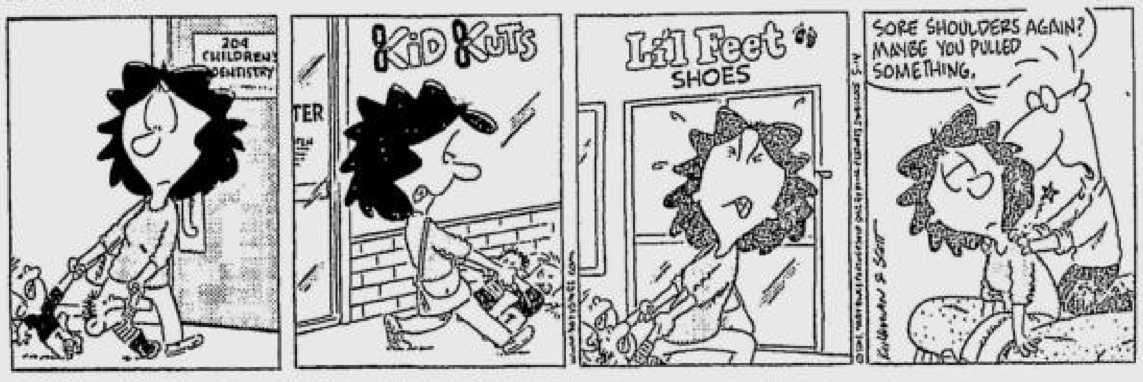
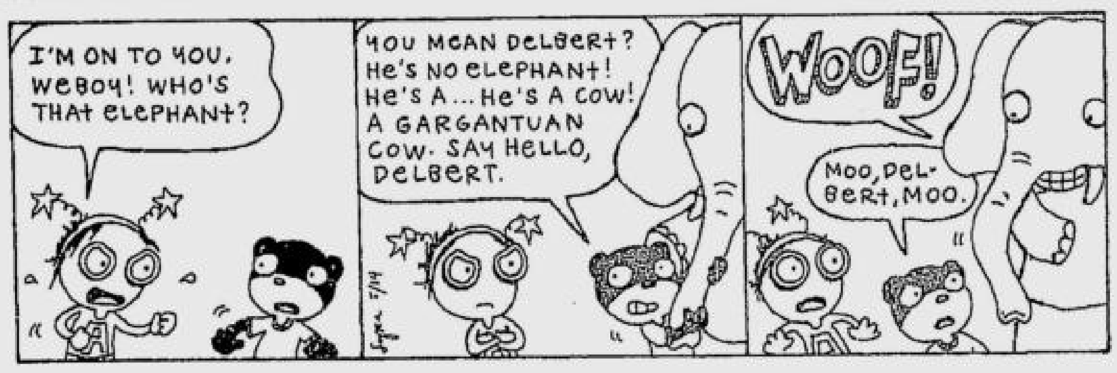
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


204 CHILDREN'S DENTISTRY
KID KUTS
L'il Feet SHOES
SORE SHOULDERS AGAIN? MAYBE YOU PULLED SOMETHING.

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M ON TO YOU, WEBOY! WHO'S THAT ELEPHANT?
YOU MEAN DELBERT? HE'S NO ELEPHANT! HE'S A... HE'S A COW! A GARGANTUAN COW. SAY HELLO, DELBERT.
WOOF!
MOO, DELBERT, MOO.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a wonderful imagination! Furthermore, you have the gift of the common touch. People are drawn to you, although you often wonder why. You frequently moonlight, working with your pet hobbies. You have an uncanny understanding of how others tick. Expect increased solitude this year while you work on something special. Birthdate of: Jamie-Lynn Sigler, singer/actress; Madeleine Albright, former US secretary of state; Katherine Anne Porter, short-story writer/novelist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today's Full Moon stresses your financial situation. But in truth, it really stresses how you feel about it. It was the same yesterday, and it will be the same tomorrow.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Today's Full Moon in Scorpio is directly opposite your Taurus Sun. This means that you need to apply more patience and understanding to all your conversations with close friends and partners.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Do not try to get too much done at work today. The Full Moon always puts people a bit at odds with each other. Use your clever wit and way with words to pave the way for understanding and cooperation.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): There is no point arguing with a friend about something. You don't have to change the minds of others. Simply remain steadfast in your own beliefs.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): All interactions with authority figures, parents and teachers might be testy today. Do not defy somebody more powerful than yourself. (At least not today.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Arguments about religious, political and philosophical subjects are quite pointless today. This Full Moon makes you zealous and too passionate to maintain objectivity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might be disappointed if you are denied something you expect. Don't fight for your rights today. Wait until later in the week.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is definitely one of those days when it is better to agree to disagree with a close friend or partner. Your relationship is more important than the debate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your eagerness to get things done at work might cloud your ability to see what is really going on. Lift your head above whatever you are doing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be extra-patient dealing with children and young people today. This Full Moon affects young minds as well as your own. Kindness and tolerance go a long way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Today's Full Moon is particularly stressful for your sign. Avoid family arguments and assertive discussions with parents and authority figures. Chill out.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a mildly accident-prone day for you. If you are aware of it, and you take extra time and don't try to push the river, everything will be just fine.

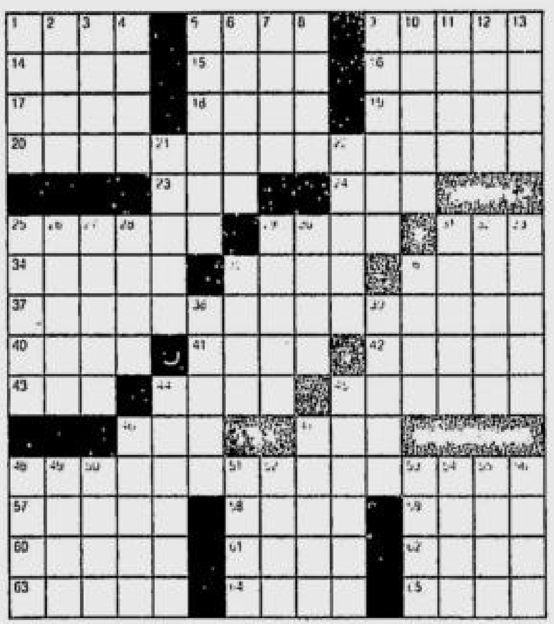
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 The other white meat
5 Baby powder
9 Thanks, in Quebec
14 Panache
15 Pastoral narrative
16 Geometry calculations
17 Dimensions
18 Blissful cloud
19 Disciplined training
20 Radiates certainty
23 Embodies
24 Garnet's color
25 Engine part
29 Mournful utterance
31 Shade provider
34 Flip a lid off
35 Stain on Santa's coat
36 Blackthorn
37 Projects charisma
40 Tough journey
41 Contends
42 Top
43 Landscaping shrub
44 Places
45 Except
46 Cruet contents
47 Troy, NY school
48 Elicits bravos
57 Haughty
58 Ages and ages and ages
59 My golly!
60 "JFK" director
61 Rip apart
62 La Scala highlight
63 Greek poet
64 Iowa State city
65 Put up resistance

DOWN

1 Cozumel cash
2 Hodgepodge
3 Heckle
4 Patella's place
5 Destroyer, slangily
6 Tijuana ta-ta
7 Swann or Redgrave
8 Staff sign
9 Drive crazy
10 Goofed up
11 Restraining influence
12 Math subj.
13 Archipelago member
21 Mall units
22 Very angry
25 Crack filler
26 Accustom
27 Spiral pin
28 Sherman or panzer
29 Tiny specks
30 Expressions of delight
31 Fill with high spirits
32 English aristocrats
33 Written reminders
35 Hissy fit
36 Synagogue
38 Early-stage seed
39 Like dunce caps
44 Filch
45 Overturns
46 Threatened layer
47 Avignon's river
48 Vague recipe measure
49 Countertenor
50 Zip along
51 Poet Teasdale
52 Abound (with)
53 __ my lips!
54 Folklore monster
55 Homeless child
56 6/6/44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By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

5/14/03

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

A	W	O	L	■	B	U	R	K	E	■	S	T	A	B
L	O	V	E	■	A	S	I	A	N	■	H	O	U	R
P	R	I	V	A	T	E	P	R	O	P	E	R	T	Y
S	E	D	E	R	■	■	E	M	U	L	S	I	O	N
■	■	■	E	T	N	A	■	A	G	E	■	■	■	■
S	A	T	■	H	I	R	E	■	H	A	R	M	E	D
A	D	O	■	U	N	I	T	Y	■	■	B	U	R	Y
G	E	N	E	R	A	L	H	O	S	P	I	T	A	L
A	P	E	R	■	■	S	E	G	U	E	■	E	S	A
S	T	R	E	A	M	■	L	I	M	B	■	D	E	N
■	■	■	■	F	O	G	■	S	O	B	S	■	■	■
E	M	A	N	A	T	E	D	■	■	L	I	B	R	A
M	A	J	O	R	L	E	A	G	U	E	T	E	A	M
I	R	A	N	■	E	S	T	O	P	■	I	N	T	O
L	Y	R	E	■	Y	E	A	T	S	■	N	E	S	S

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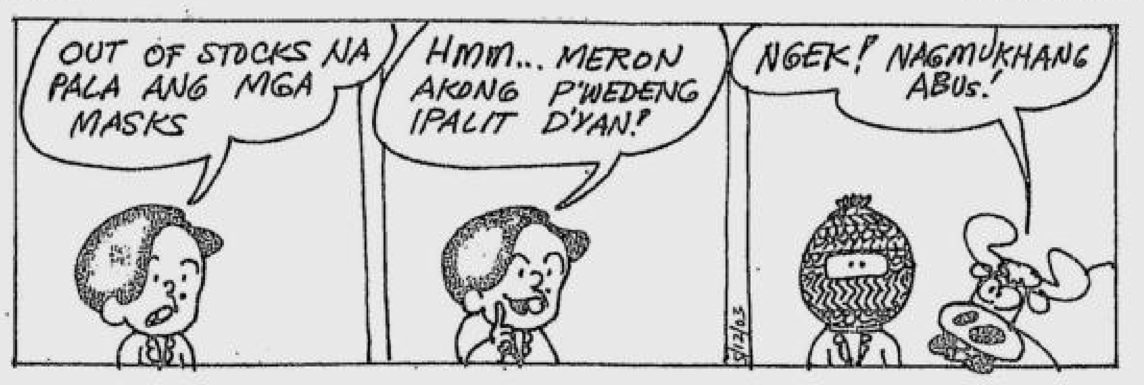
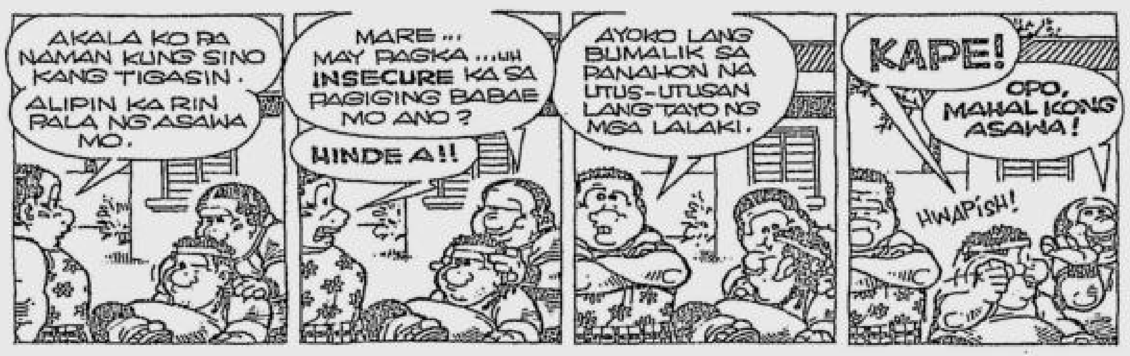
5/14/03

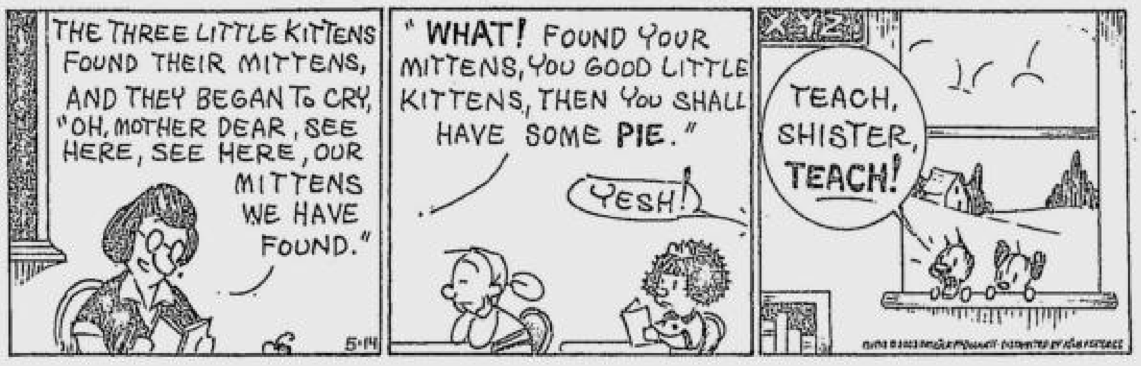
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


OUT OF STOCKS NA PALA ANG MGA MASKS
HMM... MERON AKONG P'WEDENG IPALIT D'YAN!
NGEK! NAGMUKHANG ABUS!

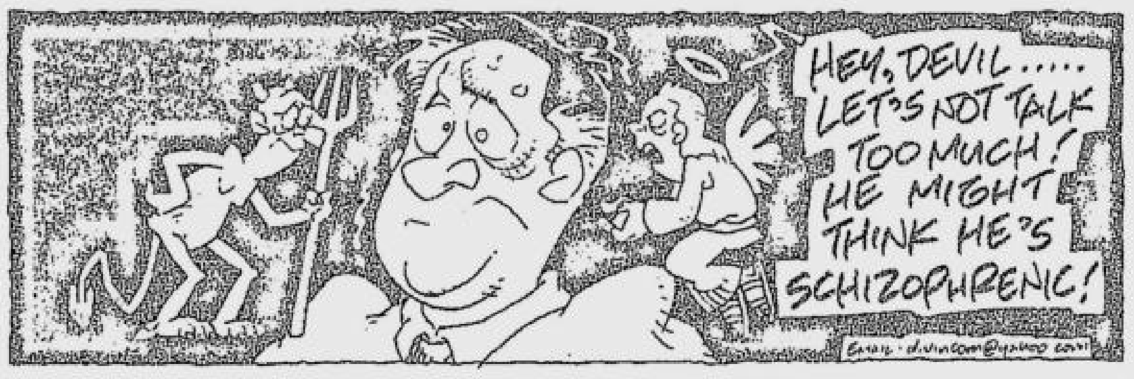
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


AKALA KO PA NAMAN KUNG SINO KANG TIGASIN.
ALIPIN KA RIN PALA NG ASAWA MO.
MARE... MAY PAGKA ...UH INSECURE KA SA PAGIGING BABAE MO ANO?
HINDE A!!
AYOKO LANG BUMALIK SA PANAHON NA UTUS-UTUSAN LANG TAYO NG MGA LALAKI.
KAPE!
OPO, MAHAL KONG ASAWA!
HWAPISH!

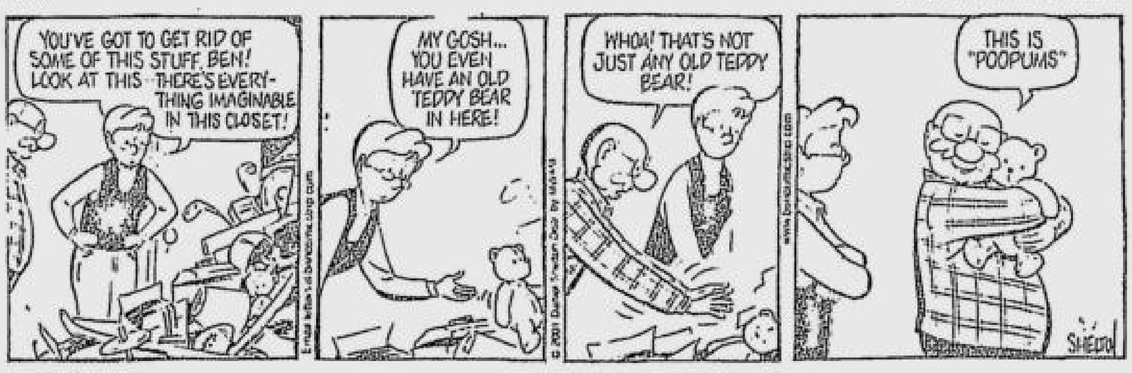
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THE THREE LITTLE KITTENS FOUND THEIR MITTENS, AND THEY BEGAN TO CRY, "OH, MOTHER DEAR, SEE HERE, SEE HERE, OUR MITTENS WE HAVE FOUND."
"WHAT! FOUND YOUR MITTENS, YOU GOOD LITTLE KITTENS, THEN YOU SHALL HAVE SOME PIE."
YESH!
TEACH, SHISTER, TEACH!

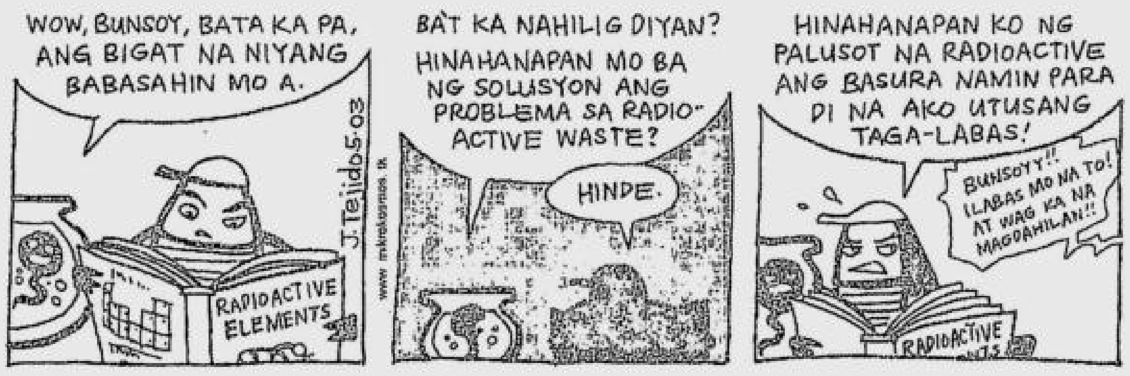
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HEY, DEVIL..... LET'S NOT TALK TOO MUCH! HE MIGHT THINK HE'S SCHIZOPHRENIC!
Email - divincom@yahoo.com

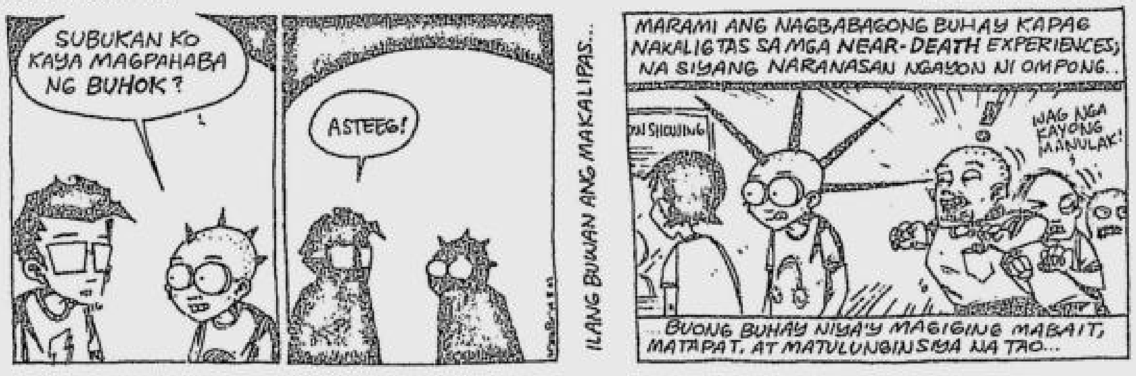
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU'VE GOT TO GET RID OF SOME OF THIS STUFF, BEN! LOOK AT THIS - THERE'S EVERYTHING IMAGINABLE IN THIS CLOSET!
MY GOSH... YOU EVEN HAVE AN OLD TEDDY BEAR IN HERE!
WHOA! THAT'S NOT JUST ANY OLD TEDDY BEAR!
THIS IS "POOPUMS"

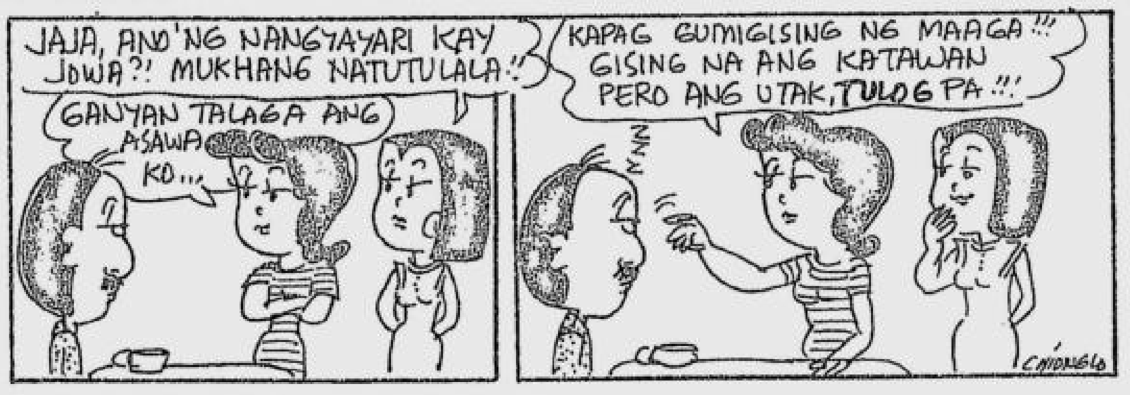
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


WOW, BUNSOY, BATA KA PA, ANG BIGAT NA NIYANG BABASAHIN MO A.
RADIOACTIVE ELEMENTS
J. Tejido 5-03
BA'T KA NAHILIG DIYAN? HINAHANAPAN MO BA NG SOLUSYON ANG PROBLEMA SA RADIOACTIVE WASTE?
HINDE.
HINAHANAPAN KO NG PALUSOT NA RADIOACTIVE ANG BASURA NAMIN PARA DI NA AKO UTUSANG TAGA-LABAS!
BUNSOYY!! ILABAS MO NA TO! AT WAG KA NA MAGDAHILAN!!
RADIOACTIVE

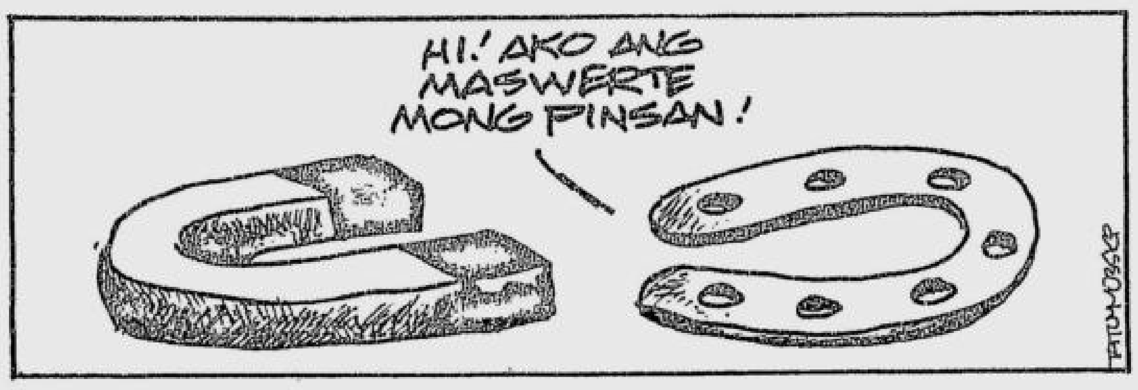
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


SUBUKAN KO KAYA MAGPAHABA NG BUHOK?
ASTEEG!
ILANG BUWAN ANG MAKALIPAS...
MARAMI ANG NAGBABAGONG BUHAY KAPAG NAKALIGTAS SA MGA NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES; NA SIYANG NARANASAN NGAYON NI OMPONG..
WAG NGA KAYONG MANULAK!
...BUONG BUHAY NIYA'Y MAGIGING MABAIT, MATAPAT, AT MATULUNGIN SIYA NA TAO...

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, ANO'NG NANGYAYARI KAY JOWA?! MUKHANG NATUTULALA!!
GANYAN TALAGA ANG ASAWA KO...
KAPAG GUMIGISING NG MAAGA!!! GISING NA ANG KATAWAN PERO ANG UTAK, TULOG PA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HI! AKO ANG MASWERTE MONG PINSAN!
TATUM-OSCAR

Boracay gets . . .

From page H4

Later, Davao City winner Greg Nifras would say that the experience in the island was worthwhile.

"This is a special treatment they're giving us," he said. "*Sobra sobra*. I feel important to them and that's what makes this trip such a blast."

And just when a school of bats made its way across the hazy Boracay sunset, another batch of nocturnes got ready for the long evening of partying.

Pier One was the place where all inhibitions were shed.

The next morning was spent on island-hopping. Strong waves might have deterred the group from visiting Crocodile Island, but it certainly didn't stop them from anchoring on one of the islands to snorkel.

It was just the opportunity needed by the Visayas and Mindanao winners to showcase their diving and swimming skills. A couple of them impressed their dates by jumping off from the top of our motor banca to the water head first, while the rest satisfied themselves with snorkeling.

Souvenir memories

For lunch, Puka Beach was the destination. This island, which is a good 20 minutes from central Boracay, is the source of most of the puka shells found in necklaces and bracelets. However, the local government does not allow anyone to take anything from the shore.

But with the tiring water activities earlier, no one really bothered to pick up the shells, as everyone wolfed down the native *inihaw* dishes that were served.

Later, the 14 girls were given money to take their dates shopping at the local market in the afternoon.

Later that night, when most of the activities was over, the 14 winners huddled at one table at Hey Jude! and forgot about their dates for a while.

Here, over bottles of beer, they shared some of the wonderful things that had happened to them the past days.

Visayas winner Enrico Mark Alester said the best thing about the trip was the opportunity to make friends and meet new people. The men agreed each would play host to any of them should he be in town.

"So now, we can go to Cebu, Davao or Manila and not worry about the accommodation," Alester explained.

Meanwhile, Mark Flores of Davao said he planned to put together a photo folio of the event to preserve the memories for everyone.

Apparently, even without the girls they would have been very satisfied of their vacation. After all, just like in every Axe ad, the girls will always come to he who has the best-selling armpits—even if the lucky man is as far away as Boracay.

WINNERS of the Axecape to Paradise-Boracay promo with Axe brand manager Franz Decloedt (extreme left) and Nitto Victoria from Unilever (extreme right)

ENJOYING their date at Pier One

JASON MR
LIVE

JASON on hats: "I feel naked without one."

Jason Mraz . . .

From page H1

tures in his music video "The Remedy (I Won't Worry)" and on his album cover: red caps and roosters.

"I've always worn a hat for so long that I feel naked without one," Jason says. And the rooster? "Well, I think the album is somewhat cocky, y'know, it's really just exposing myself."

"What I like about the bird," he adds, "is that it wakes the world up with a song, so I felt like I [wanted to] adopt the rooster as my power animal and maybe this CD will become like a rooster where people will want to wake up in the morning and put it on."

Music and then some

Of course, music isn't all what Jason does. When he's not on tour, you'd find him catching up on his reading and writing, or doing some photography. In fact, if he weren't a musician, he says he would probably be acting in romance films. Good thing he isn't, or he'd be giving Hugh Grant a run for his money.

Speaking of Hugh, Jason wonders why many people thinks he looks like the actor. "But you know, I think he's a handsome guy, so I consider it a compliment." We agree.

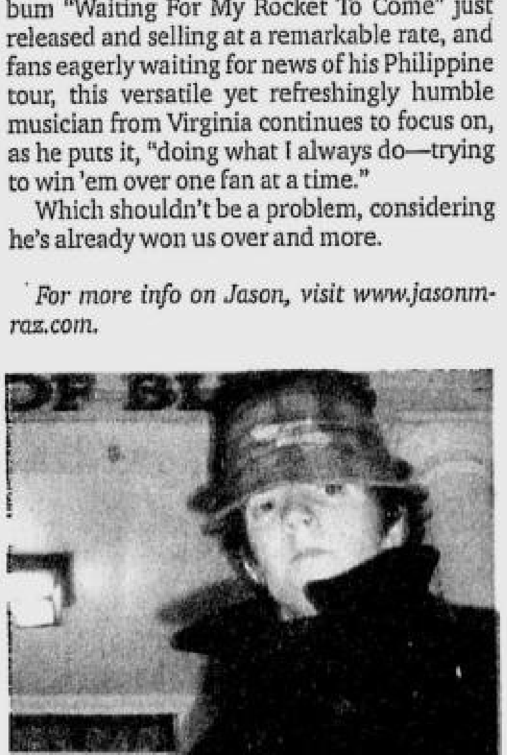
His looks, as well as his talent, have turned hordes of female heads, and he admits to having relationships in the past. But heads up, ladies—he's currently very much single. "I am indeed," he says, with a sly note in his voice.

As more and more male solo artists continue to flood the music scene, Jason just shrugs it off and does his own thing, perfectly unfazed by the competition. As if he's not modest enough, he says that he considers himself an unknown singer.

Well, not if his growing base of fans can help it. Now, with his phenomenal debut album "Waiting For My Rocket To Come" just released and selling at a remarkable rate, and fans eagerly waiting for news of his Philippine tour, this versatile yet refreshingly humble musician from Virginia continues to focus on, as he puts it, "doing what I always do—trying to win 'em over one fan at a time."

Which shouldn't be a problem, considering he's already won us over and more.

For more info on Jason, visit www.jasonmraz.com.



JASON would be acting in romance films if he weren't in music.

Here you wait again.

Your client promised he'd be there at 2:30.

And you know it will be more like 4:30. If you are lucky.

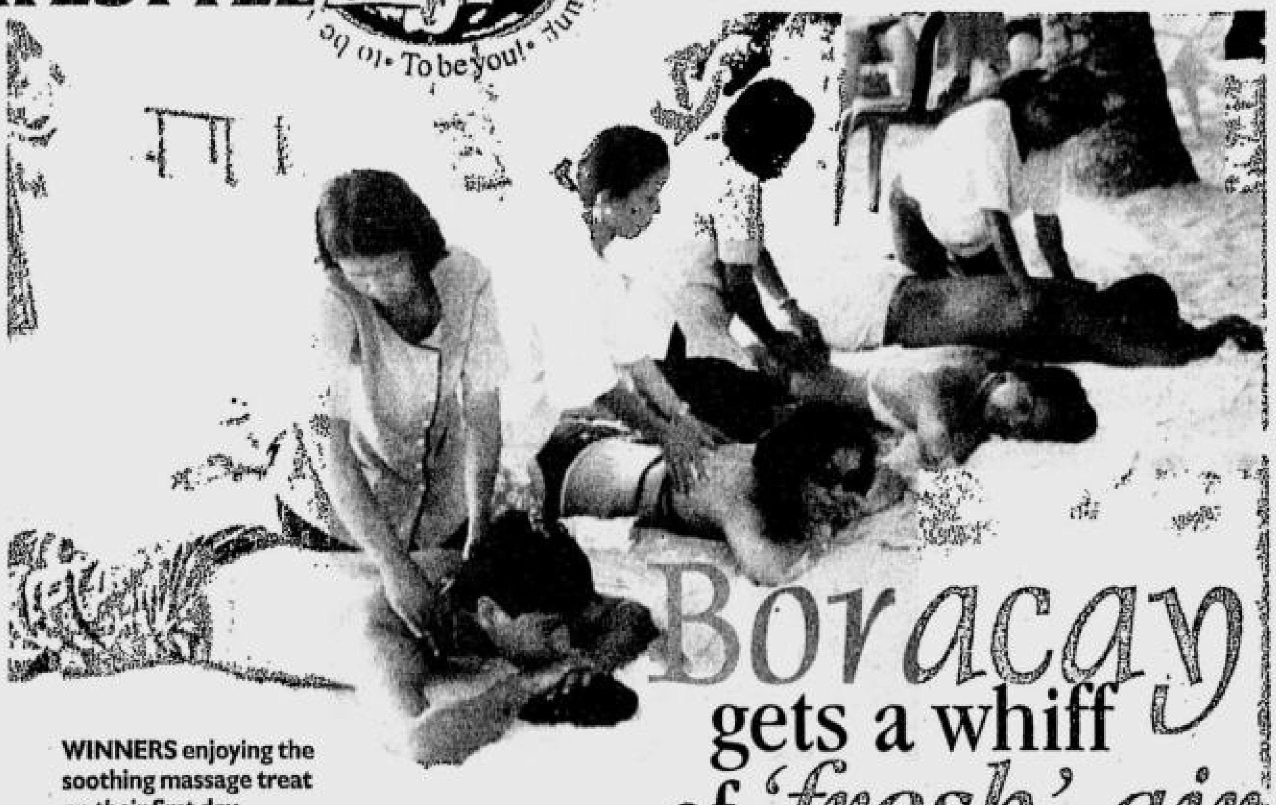
Is this how you kill time waiting for a client?

(At the same time your Tokyo client has to have your proposal e-mailed high priority ASAP.)

Boracay gets a whiff of 'fresh' air

The beach destination becomes a semi-'Temptation Island' when lucky guys get to have the dates of their young lives

AXE brand manager Franz Decloedt flanked by the alluring Axe girls



WINNERS enjoying the soothing massage treat on their first day

By Jason Doplito
2bU! Correspondent

THE BEST things in life were definitely free for the 14 male grand prize winners of the "Axecape to Paradise" contest. After all, they got an all-expense paid trip to Boracay, together with 14 female models who went with them as dates for the three-day vacation. But that would be getting ahead of the story.

For before they won, they all probably had only dreamed of beating the summer heat by sticking their faces into the fridge. Could they have expected that their armpits would be their ticket to a most memorable experience?

Cebu City winner Enrico Luz said he didn't expect that an Axe cap would bring him to Boracay. "I went out for a 'gimmick' with friends that night at the Axe party. I never thought I'd go home winning a vacation trip."

With him were other lucky winners such as Reinoven Carranceja, Arnel Mendoza, Arnol Sandagon, Daniel Merilles, Vince Herbert Go and actor Illac Diaz from the Luzon/GMA area; Jermel Ligan, Efren Ongjunco and Alister Versales from the Visayas region; and Albert Egalom. Mark Jay Flores, Anacleto Concha and Gregory Franz Nifras from Mindanao.

When asked what the itinerary for the contestants were, Axe brand manager Franz Decloedt simply said, "None." It was perhaps a silly question to ask because one basically forgets about time in Boracay.

It was a clear day when we arrived on the powdery sands of the beach. The blazing sun becomes less irritating when you have a long stretch of sandbar before you.

We had our own version of "Temptation Island." The winners got face to face with their potential dates. Later, it was learned that the guys didn't have an idea that there was such a pairing-off. All they thought was they were just going to be by themselves for the whole stretch of their vacation. Well, what are great-smelling dudes without their dudettes?

And this question became even more apparent when the air started smelling differently. Nah, it had nothing to do with the saltwater; all 14 winners suddenly brought out their Axe body spray and unsparingly doused themselves fresh with the "enigmatic, woody and masculine scent" (that's the advertising copy) for the meeting.

Ice-breaking

The ice was difficult to break. After all, seeing the 14 models in their skimpy bikinis probably assaulted the winners' sensibilities (most of them were country boys).

But when they were all rounded off for their massage at Willy's, the first of their duties as partners for the day, they all eventually warmed up to one another.

Some of the couples even found common ground when they learned it was both their first time on the island.

It was an interesting sight to see the guys and girls, lying on their stomach and slobbered with coconut oil, while trying to squeeze out information from each other. It put the extra pressure in the blind date.

After the relaxing massage, they all headed to Jonah's Place for its excellent and sometimes strange shake concoctions.

It was a perfect ending to the first day, as the mocha rum set the tone for the coming nightlife in Boracay.

BORACAY/H3

TV LIMELIGHT: An Axe winner with his date being interviewed by ABS-CBN at Jonah's

Abrakadabra!
Mag-Celle-babad sa Touch Mobile,
Kuwarta, House & Lot Pwede Kang Manalo!

Get a chance to win ₱20,000.00 Daily and a HOUSE & LOT TAX FREE sa Grand Raffle ng Touch Mobile Celle-babad Raffle Promo

[illegible] electronic raffle entry.

Ang daling manalo:

1. Importanteng mag-register para makasali. Register once by texting: "reg_<your name>_ <your address>" to 2292.
hal. "reg Johnny Reyes 1902 New York St., Cubao" at i-text sa 2292.
2. Mag-Celle-babad. Tumawag (₱6.50 /min. cell to cell and cell to local landline, ₱9.50 /min. NDD, $0.40 /min. IDD), Mag-Voice Message (₱3.00 /min.), Voice Info (₱3.00 /min.) at Karaoke (₱2.50 /min.). Every 1 minute on your TouchMobile is equivalent to 1 electronic raffle entry.
Kaya: 2 min. calls = 2 electronic raffle entries; 3 min. calls = 3 electronic raffle entries.
3. Touch Mobile Celle-babad Raffle Promo is from April 21 to June 15, 2003

The more you Celle-babad on your Touch Mobile, baka ang dream house mo, mapasa-iyo!

See flyers for more details.

*Only charged voice calls will be valid for this promo. All calls to 801, 802, 808 and other toll free numbers are not qualified as entries.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0873. Series of 2003.

touch mobile

Togetherness within your reach.

STA. CATALINA VILLAGE

Our four letters make a home. ALPHI An AYALA LAND INC. Subsidiary

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